

No.90 October 1953



THE IRON DUKE

*THE MAGAZINE OF
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGT
(WEST RIDING)*

THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Magazine of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

*Dettingen
Mysore
Serlingapatam
Ally Ghur
Delhi, 1803
Leswarree
Deig
Corunna
Nive
Peninsula
Waterloo
Alma
Inkerman
Sevastopol
Abyssinia*



*Relief of Kimberley
Paardeberg
South Africa 1900-02
Mons 1914
Marne 1914, '18
Ypres 1914, '15, '17
Hill 60
Somme 1916, '18
Arras 1917, '18
Cambrai 1917, '18
Lys
Piave 1918
Landing at
Suvla
Afghanistan 1919*

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HALIFAX.

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THE THIRD BATTLE OF THE HOOK, MAY 28, 1953

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THE REGIMENT

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Gen. Sir Philip Christison, Bt., G.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

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 Halifax Lt.-Col. D. Scott, T.D.
 7th Battalion, The Drill Hall, Milnsbridge, near Huddersfield.. .. . Lt.-Col. Sir N. H. Everard, Bt.
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 673rd Cadet L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.), The Drill Hall, Keighley .. Major A. Dewhirst
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REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION (including Old Comrades' Association):

Secretary and Hon. Treasurer: Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E., Wellesley Barracks, Halifax.

Editorial

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Peace, albeit a somewhat uneasy peace, now reigns in Korea, and we trust that the 1st Battalion will be able to complete the preparations for their departure to Gibraltar in a reasonable degree of comfort; they can go secure in the knowledge that they have made a name for themselves second to none. The sympathy of all members of the Regiment will go out to the relatives of those who did not return and whose names are recorded on the Roll of Honour.

* * * *

On another page appear the official citations for the honours earned in the battle of the "Hook." Read in conjunction with the accounts sent by the Companies they give a vivid picture of the action. The coolness and leadership of the young N.C.O.s in particular are beyond praise. The present generation are as good fighting men as any in our history, true "chips of the old block."

* * * *

The Voltigeurs de Quebec, our new allied Canadian regiment, have sent us a most interesting account of their origin and history together with a composite photograph of the officers now serving. Unfortunately the latter cannot be reproduced satisfactorily on the paper available for THE IRON DUKE. We have therefore sent the photograph to the Depot Museum and hope that the Voltigeurs will be able to send some similar illustrations more suited to our limited resources.

* * * *

Such a wealth of material is available to the Editor that he must reluctantly hold over till the next issue several valuable contributions if this

number of THE IRON DUKE is not to assume a bulk greater than that which its finances can possibly sustain. They include: 'The Location List of Officers,' which will be published more frequently in future; 'A Visit to Waterloo' by Major A. C. S. Savory; the next instalment of Lt. Thain's Diary; several interesting letters to the Editor; 2nd instalment of 'Reminiscences of the Boer War'; 'The Return of P.O.W.s' by Major R. E. Austin; and 'The Depot Libraries' by Lt.-Col. D. J. Stewart. We apologise to the contributors and hope they will understand that the health and sanity of the Business Manager must be preserved at all costs.

* * * *

On July 20 Dr. Arthur Bryant, the eminent historian, delivered the Wellington Centenary Lecture at the Staff College, Camberley. The distinguished guests who were present included: His Grace The Duke of Wellington, The Marquess of Douro, Brigadier A. Head, Secretary of State for War, the Headmaster of Wellington College, Gen. Sir Philip Christison, Bart., Colonel of the Regiment and Lt.-Col. G. F. Upjohn, D.W.R., Chief Instructor at the R.M.A. Sandhurst.

At the dinner afterwards Maj.-Gen. G. W. Lothbury, Commandant of the Staff College, proposed the toast of "The Great Duke of Welling-

ton," which was replied to by the present Duke. The following message speaks for itself: "From the Deputy Fortress Commander, Gibraltar. To The Bandmaster, D.W.R. Many congratulations on splendid performance of your Regiment at Keys Ceremony this afternoon. Although comparisons are always odious I believe it to be the best performance that I have seen during my 2½ years in Gibraltar. In view of hot weather this is indeed a magnificent performance."

* * * *

We draw attention to the letter from the Consul-General in Los Angeles to the Secretary of the O.C.A. in the Depot notes. It is difficult adequately to express the gratitude all must feel for the kindness that inspired this spontaneous act of generosity on the part of a distant community of our countrymen.

* * * *

Our thanks are due to the Editor of *Soldier* for the loan of the admirable sketch which forms our frontispiece.

* * * *

Contributions for the January number of THE IRON DUKE should reach the Editor not later than December 1—and the earlier the better.

1st BATTALION

SUB-EDITORIAL

Our last Sub-Editorial was penned in the middle of the uneasy period in May before the battle of "The Hook" burst upon us. We knew it was coming, we knew that it was the Battalion that would have to bear the main brunt of the Chinese attack—the only thing we did not know was when the storm would break, merely that it would obviously be soon.

The fortnight May 13-28 was a severe strain on everyone, steeled and expectant though we were. Almost daily we were told "Tonight may be the night," so that when it finally came a throb of

something closely akin to relief surged through the Battalion.

On the night May 28/29 the Battalion was tested in the biggest action to which the British Commonwealth forces in Korea have been subjected since the Gloucesters' battle of the Imjin in April 1951. That the Battalion acquitted itself well and added lustre to its already high reputation in Korea is almost past history to those who read of the battle in the contemporary pages of the British Press, and those of us serving out here can well be proud of having a hand in writing one more glorious page in the Regiment's history.

The victory of "The Hook" was not achieved without grievous loss in killed, wounded and missing. We survivors join with the next of kin in mourning the departure of those gallant comrades, and pray that their sacrifice of life and limb will not have been in vain, but will have played a vital part in proving that naked aggression does not pay.

That the truce has now been signed may well signify this proof, but as yet it is too early to tell.

After the battle the Battalion was pulled out of the line to lick its wounds and re-equip, and some six days later took over the battalion sector on the right of "The Hook." Here it remained until July 8, when it moved to the Naeochon sector which it had left in February last. In this position we remained until the truce was signed, and 72 hours later withdrew to a tented camp south of the Imjin, in a valley dominated by Castle and Glou-

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cester hills, the scene of the epic battle of two years ago.

Daily since the truce the Battalion has been finding working parties to return to the de-militarised zone and strip out the defences, and a tremendous tonnage of timber, wire, corrugated iron and other defence stores has been brought back and stacked in the Battalion area, where it is rapidly being put to more peaceful and comfort-producing uses.

At the end of August, 16 of our 20 missing returned, having been P.o.W.s of the Chinese. They were in great heart and all but two had recovered from their wounds. They are now on their way home to a well-deserved spell of leave.

As this Sub-Editorial was being written we heard that the advance party of our relieving unit—The North Staffordshire Regiment—had embarked in England. The eleventh hour has been reached.

OFFICERS' MESS

The last notes left us in brigade reserve, basking in the sun preparatory to taking over "The Hook" position. Battalion Headquarters, Headquarter and Support Companies formed a main Mess at the head of a pleasant valley overlooking the river, while the rifle companies formed two joint Messes in the remoter suburbs.

After our move up to "The Hook" we found ourselves a veritable magnet for swanning V.I.P.s, I.P.s and simple Ps; suitable hospitality was offered. A full account of this period may be read elsewhere, but we must record the sense of deep sorrow felt by all members at the loss of Colin Glen, Peter Guthrie and Ernest Kirk.

On our relief by the Royal Fusiliers we returned to our previous position in reserve to rest and refit. On this occasion we attempted a Battalion Mess. Despite shortage of cutlery and crockery everyone managed to fit in somehow and previous strangers got to know each other. On Coronation night we had a small party to listen to the broadcast. Owing to bad reception little could be heard of the actual ceremony. Only three remained with ears glued to the receiver to catch an occasional word through the "squelch." However, the occasion was fitly celebrated, the *chef d'oeuvre* being a magnificent boar's head presented by Divisional Headquarters.

After a brief rest, the Battalion was back in the line, this time on the right of "The Hook." The C.P. Mess resumed its former size with the addition of the Battalion sub-editor and historian, who, in addition to his scrivining, was able to make a convenient fourth at bridge. As the Battalion was in the line, no large celebration could be held on June 18. However, the day was marked by a small buffet luncheon party for our affiliated supporting arms. Unfortunately only a few officers from the forward companies could get back, but we were delighted to see the Brigadier and the Commanding Officers of The Black Watch and The King's.

During this period we thought that Jupiter Pluvius had done his worst. We were wrong. A complicated triangular move involving the 3rd Royal Australians and the Royal 22nd Regiment of

Canada found us perched on an eagle's eyrie on Naeochon, our old position of Christmas, 1952. Then it started to rain. As everyone lived in very old hoochis several fell in. Those that did not were saturated. There was scarcely a dry garment or a box of matches in the Battalion. The rain was succeeded by intense heat. This, in conjunction with sodden ground, caused clothing and matches to remain saturated from internal sources. The C.P. Mess itself was known as the Blue Room—decor a cross between an Alaskan log cabin and the more garish type of night club. It was here that our generator, ever temperamental, decided, like the Irishman's donkey, to go no further. Outside the Mess was a narrow ledge just holding five chairs. A favourite sport for the occupants of these was to sit, glass in hand, and hurl insults at visiting officers as they panted up a staircase of one hundred and thirty-nine mortar boxes from the bottom of the hill.

Came the truce. We dismantled like mad things and planned for a move to our old location near Gloucester Valley. Plans for a leisurely move to the new area with ground clearing parties and harbour parties, were disrupted by orders from above for a complete move in one day, including the two Echelons. This was complicated by the fact that elements of three other units were still occupying the area. To everyone's surprise we all got in by nightfall. And at nightfall it started to rain. Not the "soft refreshing rain" of the hymn, but a tropical, torrential rain which lasted all night. Everyone got wet. The Mess hut fell down and the 2IC was marooned on the top of his bed by swirling waters. The following day irrigation schemes were put in hand and the damage repaired. Ordeal by water was now succeeded by ordeal by fire, when the "Baron" burnt his tent down. This necessitated the removal of at least half the officers' tents. A race for the one piece of open ground now ensued between the Mess Sergeant moving officers' tents and Capt. Kilner, who was erecting a cricket net. A suitable compromise was reached and every evening fast, slow and medium bowlers may be seen tripping over guy ropes on their way to bowl.

The decision was then made to move the Mess and officers' lines to a new and more spacious area. This operation is under way at the time of writing. Ambitious plans have been made for a really good Mess in which we can entertain creditably. Even now Rudolf Austin is collecting specimens for a Japanese garden, and wallowing in muddy streams to make a pond.

Several new officers have joined us during the period under review. We welcome Dennis Shuttleworth and David Cowell, 2/Lts. Michael Casey, James Hayes, Tom Lawton (now departed to the Divisional Battle School), David Miller, David Camidge, Peter Mitchell and Chris Bannerman. David Borwell has returned from the Coronation. Nick Jackson has just arrived from U.K., vice John Parr, who is in Japan. We were also very sorry to say good-bye to Tony Sherratt of the West Yorkshires, who has outstayed his tour, but not his welcome in Korea. We are also sorry

to lose Bill Mackay, our tame gunner, together with his covey of F.O.O.s, who, on the signing of the truce returned to live with their Regiment. His cigar will be missed in the C.P. and at the bridge table.

At the moment our thoughts are directed towards Gibraltar, where reports say that a luxurious home awaits us.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Shortly after we had composed our last notes for THE IRON DUKE, we relieved the Black Watch on "The Hook." There our Mess was in a squad tent, and our numbers dwindled to the dozen or so of Battalion H.Q., with an occasional visitor from either the reserve company or a Sapper or Gunner, passing through on his lawful occasion. As the area came under occasional shell fire, this tent did strike us as a doubtful asset, but in the event we had no accidents. Pte. Foley, our barman, did find some shrapnel scattered about outside one evening, but that was the nearest he got to the war. The spectacle we saw most while here was helicopters landing and taking off again with wounded. This became all too frequent, and we watched with considerable anxiety on the evening of May 28, when we had two helicopters in the air, and shells began to land in the fields beyond. The only senior N.C.O. to be punctured in the battle that night was Sgt. Fletcher, and his collection of iron-mongery was in a place more inconvenient than harmful. Taken at its least value, it did secure him a breakfast in the Mess, sitting gingerly on the edge of a bench.

We congratulate C.S.M. Jobling on the M.M. he won that night.

On May 29 we left this piece of real estate to the Royal Fusiliers and moved back into our previous idyllic area, where we stayed for ten days to re-organise. One evening, while here, we had a visit from the Sergeant Majors of our affiliated artillery battery, T.S.M.s Hindle and Herbage.

Our next area in the line was one in which we had a far quieter time than when on "The Hook." The same tent was our home, but this time enemy artillery caused us no embarrassment. Members from the reserve company were able to pay us a visit with less likelihood of being called away suddenly, but, apart from drenching rain and steadily increasing heat, there was nothing of note to record during this period.

From here, staying at "A" echelon for the day, we moved into a part of the line further north. This area was familiar to us all, but Battalion Headquarter area had changed, and the Royal Signal detachment occupied what had been the Sergeants' Mess hut, and we had to build a new one. This was accomplished in record time by Sgt. Mills and S.I. Meadows, our P.T. instructor and "Gook" Chieftain. After Lt. Stackpoole had given us some sound advice and help in flyproofing the structure, and we had expended gallons of blue paint in decoration, we had a very passable Mess. We did not weep, however, when the truce cut short our stay there. We are now established in an area made famous by the stand of the Gloucesters-

ters, and have a more spacious and comfortable Mess than at any time since we came out here. All members dine together, with the temporary exception of "D" Company, who live a little further away. They also join us in the evenings. Our very first evening here we suffered a very heavy rain-storm, and the Mess was ankle deep in flood water, but since then we have done much ditching, hoping not to be caught out again.

Comings and goings have been few. C.S.M. Turner went home in April and C.Q.M.S. Quest, M.M., was promoted C.S.M. and appointed to Headquarter Company. Cpl. Cranham of "B" Company was promoted Sergeant in June. S.I. Meadows, A.P.T.C., replaced S.S.I. Burgess, who has gone to Kure to employ more fully his talents in remedial work. Sgt. Brown of "A" Company had a short tour at the Battle School in Japan, as recorded in our last notes; he is now back with us, bulking as large as ever. Sgt. Perrin has taken his place. Sgt. Powell, our hardworking stretcher bearer Sergeant, is now on his way to Kure to look after our baggage, leaving a somewhat forlorn "Jock" Dickson and puppy Sheila to look after the R.A.P.

Leave in Tokyo was stopped earlier in the summer and is about to start again. Those of us lucky enough to get vacancies are busy planning, but it is few of us who carry out *all* our plans! It is generally agreed that this leave makes a most pleasant break, whatever we do there.

For the future, our move to Gibraltar is happily getting much closer. We promise the Band, already there, their full share of gory war stories—how a battery of guns deployed close to "A" echelon, and made a most unfriendly noise, how we (nearly all) burned our tents down with "chuffer" stoves, and how our former barman, Simmonds, was bitten by a large snake. Simmonds, with us nearly two years, is now speeding homeward to release and (he hopes) the arms of his fiancée.

"A" COMPANY

The last issue of THE IRON DUKE took the Company news up to mid-May, when we were under command of the 1st Black Watch as "V" Company on Pt. 146, the right-hand position of "The Hook" battalion sector.

In this position we were able to put into practice what we had learnt about patrolling during our ten weeks' period in Corps reserve. In front of Pt. 146 the valley floor was some 800 yards wide before it reached the Chinese positions, of which the forward feature was a hill known as Pheasant. The Company right boundary was the Samichon River, which gave reasonable flank protection.

It was decided by the C.O. of The Black Watch that we should probe towards Pheasant and find out the positions of Chinese standing patrols and what they did.

The first patrol was a recce patrol on the night of May 4/5, when 2/Lt. Simon Berry and Cpl. Taylor went off to pin-point the position of a Chinese standing patrol on the western side of Pheasant. No contact was made that night.

On the night May 6/7 Major Austin took out a

patrol of 12 to wipe out a Chinese patrol known to be on the eastern corner of Pheasant. A firm base was set up about 150 yards from the base of Pheasant and a killing party, composed of 2/Lt. Bill Oliver and Cpls. Taylor, Fawcett and Rush and Pte. Gunn, crept forward to wipe out or capture the Chinamen. Unfortunately the Chinese patrol was a rover and was bumped some 70 yards sooner than expected. The only thing that can be said is that surprise was mutual. The Chinese recovered first and disappeared with praiseworthy speed, and although our patrol remained in the area for some twenty minutes, the enemy were obviously too scared to return and fight it out.

The night of May 7/8 saw the beginning of the Third Battle of "The Hook" with a Chinese probe in Company strength on "The Hook" company position. "A" Company had no one out that night, but the following night (May 8/9) Lt.-Col. Rose, commanding The Black Watch, asked us to provide a strong ambush patrol on a feature called Doughnut in the valley and on the left flank of any further Chinese attempted raids or probes on "The Hook" or "Sausage." 2/Lt. John Keatley, Cpls. Taylor and Stephenson and eight men of No. 2 Platoon went out and lay up for eight hours in the pouring rain, but all that the ambush saw was a mosquito.

When the Battalion took over "The Hook" sector, "A" Company became reserve company, but the job was no sinecure. It was quite obvious that a big Chinese attack on the Battalion was imminent, and every spare man was required to strengthen the defences of the forward Companies. So daily most of the Company went forward to "The Hook" and laboured, and nightly we found forward standing patrols to take the weight off the other Companies, and one or two platoons spent each night up at "The Hook" as immediate reserve. At the end of six days in the line "A" Company's casualties totalled more than the rest of the Battalion added together.

Two first-class two-man recce patrols were carried out by the Company during this period.

On the night of May 22/23, 2/Lt. Simon Berry and Cpl. Stephenson set off from "The Hook" to recce the caves on the Chinese side of Warsaw. This patrol had to go out through the Warsaw standing patrol found by "C" Company and commanded by Cpl. Mackenzie—a well-known scrapper—who was so indignant at not being on the recce patrol that he had to be given a direct order by Major Austin (in the absence of his own Company Commander) to remain with his own patrol and not follow 2/Lt. Berry. The recce patrol set off down the Warsaw spur and into the re-entrant between Warsaw and Long Finger. In this area 2/Lt. Berry visited a large cave which he reported back as being big enough to hold 20 men, and which showed signs of recent habitation. Just as he reported this, the sound of small arms fire was heard at the end of Long Finger and about 20 Chinese attacked a "C" Company patrol. They and Simon Berry must have passed closely in the dark, but the latter having visited their cave failed to make them apple-pie beds to annoy them on their return. The recce patrol pushed on, looking

into each cave and reporting back its condition and capacity until it reached one from which two Chinese ran away. Sounds of groaning were heard inside so a grenade was tossed in and one more Chinaman went to meet his ancestors. His body was searched, but no documents of any kind were found on him.

In view of the fact that the noise of the grenade had probably roused any Chinese in the vicinity, who would in any case have been warned by the two who ran away, it was decided to bring the recce patrol back. As the Chinese were still milling round the end of Long Finger, the patrol had to be brought back through the Pt. 146 Company—a long sweep round. This was successfully done, thanks to a first-class wireless lay-out organised by the Battalion Signal Officer, Lt. Naughton, who had listening stations laid on with The King's at Yong Dong and The Black Watch on Pt. 146, both of which at times took over the task of relaying instructions when 2/Lt. Berry was out of contact with Major Austin, who was acting as controller from the top of "The Hook"

The Green Finger spur running north from the western end of "The Hook" had long caused us trouble as its steep sides made the re-entrant beyond it dead ground to our observation. It was known that the enemy had dug caves at the base and up the slope and the C.O. decided to send out a recce patrol to see what Chinese movement there was, particularly during the early hours of the morning and at first light. So on the night of May 26/27 2/Lt. John Keatley and Cpl. Stephenson set off from "The Hook" and lay up near the bottom of Green Finger. They heard the enemy moving about some 20 yards away and sounds of digging. At first light the enemy had all moved off and no one was seen. As the patrol had to get back to our lines in broad daylight and in full view of Chinese O.P.s on Seattle, a battery shoot for 35 minutes was carried out against known enemy positions under cover of which the patrol returned to "The Hook."

As an account of "The Hook" battle appears in another part of this IRON DUKE, "A" Company's part will be told briefly. By 1945 hours the whole Company, less one section, was in "The Hook" area disposed as follows: No. 1 Platoon, under Sgt. France, at the foot of "The Hook" in the big bunker; No. 2 Platoon on the saddle between "The Hook" and Pt. 121 with the Assault Pioneer Platoon, all under command of 2/Lt. John Keatley; and No. 3 Platoon under 2/Lt. Mike Casey on top of "The Hook" in the area of the C.P. In addition, the Company was finding the Ronson standing patrol and had loaned one section of No. 2 Platoon to "D" Company's No. 12 Platoon to replace casualties.

The Ronson standing patrol was caught by heavy enemy shell fire at 1930 hours and lost five men killed and wounded. The remainder of the patrol joined "D" Company's No. 11 Platoon and fought out the battle with that Platoon.

No. 3 Platoon formed part of the force under 2/Lt. David Gilbert-Smith that cleared "The Hook" in the early hours of the morning.

Our casualties for the period May 13-29 were 4 killed, 1 missing and 17 wounded. To the next of kin we offer our sincerest sympathy in their loss. To the wounded we wish a speedy recovery.

A day or two after the battle, Major Rudolf Austin was taken away to write up the Regimental History and the story of the battle, and Major Derek Harris took over command of the Company.

On May 30 the Battalion was relieved and we enjoyed a much-needed rest for 11 days. During this period we welcomed 2/Lt. Hayes, who took over command of No. 3 Platoon from 2/Lt. Casey, the latter taking over the duties of Company 2IC.

"A" Company went back into the line again on June 9 and we found ourselves back in the well-known area of Pt. 146. Things had, however, changed considerably since we were last there as "Victor" Company of The Black Watch. For a start, the position which we had previously occupied was now held by three Companies: "C" on our right and "D" on our left. This entailed a considerable effort digging new positions and living accommodation. Also we found that the Chinese artillery and mortar fire had increased very considerably since we were last there, and this proved an added spur, if any was needed, to our digging operations.

Little of interest occurred during our stay in this position, as our patrolling was cut to a minimum, and we did nothing beyond standing patrols.

It was here that we first learned to appreciate to the full the usefulness of our Company barber, "Mr. Poppa San." The story is well vouched for that he could hear a Chinese shell sufficiently far away to give him time to put his comb, scissors and clippers away, place a tin hat several sizes too small on his head, put his head between his knees, and then give the alarm to his waiting clients with a cry of "Number Ten." Even after all this, they still had a second or two in which to take cover themselves.

On the morning of July 9 we were relieved by a Company of the Third Royal Australian Regiment, and on the night 9/10 we returned to our old hunting grounds at Naeochon. Our take-over from a Company of the Royal 22nd Regiment of Canada—the "Van Dooze"—went smoothly in spite of differences of language, and we found ourselves one more in the "Layback" position, which we had last occupied in February. Most of the old-timers seemed pleased to be back, but the change was regarded with mixed feelings by the Company Commander, who found himself faced with a three-mile walk when he inspected the Company area.

Although not one of the forward Companies we had our fair share of shelling. In fact most people, and especially the members of No. 1 Platoon, would say we had very much more than our fair share. The only serious damage to our positions, however, was caused not by shelling but by rain. It was an eye-opener to most of us the effect that really heavy monsoon rain could have. Long sectors of trench and several "hoochies" collapsed, but luckily only after their occupants had vacated them.

The long-expected truce heralded three days of intensely hard work dismantling our "hoochies"

and bunkers, and back loading the timber. We are now reaping the benefit in that we have the wherewithal to make our new camp reasonably comfortable and attractive.

The last few weeks have seen numerous changes in the Company. To the many friends, too numerous to mention by name, who have left us for home and civilian life, we wish the very best of luck, and at the same time extend a hearty welcome to those new arrivals who have come to take their place. We also welcome Lt. Borwell, recently returned from his Coronation trip, as 2IC of the Company, and Sgt. Brown, who has returned to the Company after a tour as an instructor at the Battle School.

In conclusion we offer our heartiest congratulations to Pte. Husband on being awarded the Military Medal for the part he played in "The Hook" battle.

"B" COMPANY

Shortly after the last IRON DUKE notes were written the Battalion went back into the "Jamestown" line to occupy the "Hook" area. The story of the "Hook" has been told elsewhere and so the intention is only to mention in these notes one or two stout efforts performed by individuals during the time we were on the "Hook."

On May 13 "B" Company (Major Firth) took over the actual "Hook" feature from "A" Company of the Black Watch and held the position until May 27 when we changed over with "D" Company, who were on our left occupying Point 121.

This fortnight was extremely trying as the enemy were building up for the big attack which finally came on May 28/29. Almost nightly the Company position was probed by parties of the enemy varying from five to 30 strong, under cover of anything up to 2,000 shells and mortar bombs. During the last week the attack was expected each night, which imposed a great strain on all ranks.

No. 5 Platoon (2/Lt. Tom Rothery) was the most forward platoon and covered the most likely "run ins" from feature Ronson, Green Finger spur and feature Warsaw. They became the eyes and ears of the Company. Each section, in addition to a telephone, had a No. 88 wireless set, viz.: No. 4 Section, commander Cpl. Purvis, operator Pte. Kegney; No. 5 Section, commander Cpl. Pratt, operator L/Cpl. Dalton; No. 6 Section, commander Cpl. Ryder, operators Pte. Abbot and Peterson.

Although on the Company net these sets usually operated as a platoon net expertly controlled by the platoon commander, 2/Lt. Tom Rothery handled the difficult task of commanding the "Hook" platoon with tireless and unruffled efficiency. It was not an enviable job. His predecessor had been killed two days before we arrived and his successor was killed two days after we handed over to "D" Company.

Although Sgt. Fletcher took out wiring parties on several nights and did very good work in thickening up the platoon fences, it will be appreciated that, generally speaking, No. 5 Platoon was very much tied to the ground. Therefore patrolling had to be

carried out by Nos. 4 and 6 Platoons helped out by patrols from other Companies. We shall always be grateful to "D" Company for their very steady Ronson standing patrols and for the excellent Warsaw patrols found by "A" and "C" Companies.

No. 4 Platoon (2/Lt. David Miller) was on the left and No. 6 Platoon (2/Lt. David Gilbert-Smith) was on the right, and these platoon commanders and their platoon sergeants (Sgts. Milton and Wood) took out the Ronson standing patrol for the first few nights until "D" Company were ready to take turn and turn about in carrying out this commitment. Later on the Corporals did their full share both on Ronson and Green Finger standing patrols. From No. 4 Platoon there were Cpl. (now Sgt.) Cranham and Cpls. Bell and Moody and from No. 6 Platoon there were Cpls. Clark, Swallow and L/Cpl. (now Cpl.) Archer.

Several special patrols were well done. Sgt. Wood took a small party down Ronson patrol spur the night before the Company arrived and laid some trip flares. Later he took a patrol on to the Ronson feature itself and reported on signs of enemy activity there.

2/Lt. Gilbert-Smith took a fighting patrol down the north-east side of Green Finger at first light one morning and inspected the caves at the bottom and also the enemy communication trench which appeared to lead back round the foot of the Seattle spur. At the same time he reconnoitred the site for a standing patrol on Green Finger spur, which was established after we had been on the "Hook" about a week. It was broad daylight as this patrol climbed the last 200 yds. back into the Company position. The sniper on Seattle was not slow to seize his opportunity, which added a certain amount of excitement to the proceedings!

Then L/Cpl. (now Cpl.) Archer, together with Pte. Oyston (who was later wounded on Point 121), went down the south-east side of Green Finger spur one night. The enemy's attention was distracted to some extent by the 1st King's raid on the feature Pheasant and they were able to lie up and observe enemy activity in the area of the Green Finger caves. L/Cpl. Archer carried out his task successfully with his typical enthusiasm and dash.

Cpl. Clark deserves special mention. He must have taken part, and a leading part, in more patrols than any other N.C.O.

Communications never failed whilst the Company was on the "Hook," and this reflects great credit on L/Cpl. Senior and Ptes. Lindley, Pounder and Faulkener.

The lay-out on the "Hook" necessitated C.S.M. Frier living at the bottom of the hill, and from his base there he did great work in organising the feeding forward of ammunition, defence stores, meals and working parties and in arranging the evacuation of casualties. It was an especially unpopular place because that area, and the C.S.M.'s "hoochie" in particular, got shelled and mortared, if not as heavily, certainly more systematically than any other place on the "Hook." This fact will be confirmed readily by Pte. Middleton, the Company Commander's driver, because he had to drive his

jeep backwards and forwards between the C.S.M.'s area and the Company Command Post at the top of the hill with monotonous regularity. This he did with commendable skill and tenacity.

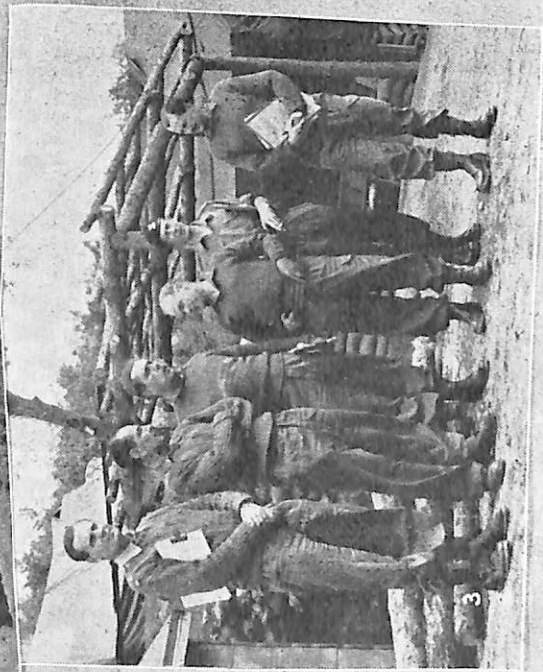
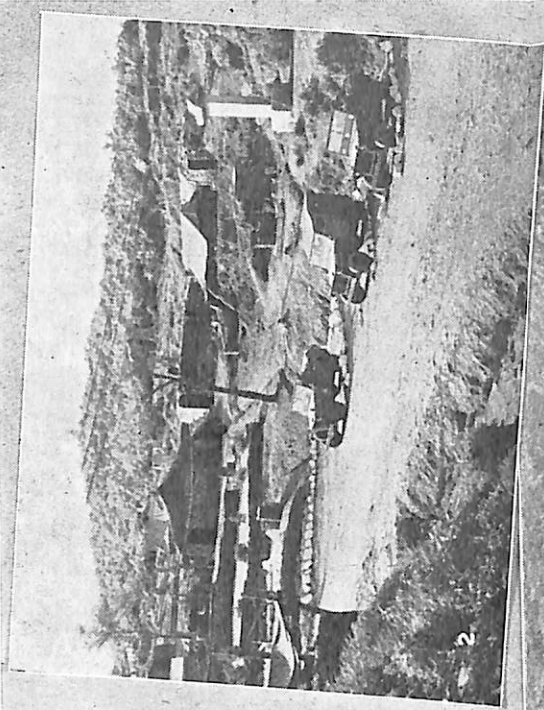
Capt. Phil Evans, the Company 2 IC, was a tower of strength at all times. When shells were falling and men were being wounded he was always out in the trench system organising and helping. 2/Lt. Peter Chester gave great assistance at the Company Command Post and we were lucky to have him.

The "B" Company 60 mm. mortar team came into its own on the "Hook" and was expertly controlled by Cpl. Hildred, who joined the Company for this role. The original team consisted of Ptes. Edmonson and West, who kept the mortar in action in the open throughout the heaviest enemy shelling and mortaring and put up a very good show indeed. They could get at the odd one or two places which Cpl. Innes, our loyal and tireless M.F.C., could not hit with the Battalion 3 in. mortars. The tanks which supported the Company were ably commanded by Lt. George Forte, who has many family connections with the "Dukes." Finally, we could not have had a more efficient F.O.O. than Capt. John Gordon, 20th Field Regiment, R.A., who, we were glad to see, received a Military Cross for his work on the "Hook."

By the time the long awaited attack came "B" Company was on Point 121, and though heavily mortared and shelled by some quite big guns, only a small party of enemy reached our wire. These disappeared when engaged with Brens and grenades. During the battle Nos. 5 and 6 Platoons were relieved by platoons of "B" Company 1st King's and despatched to the "Hook" itself. In the event No. 5 Platoon remained poised at the bottom of the hill and only No. 6 Platoon was actually committed in a counter attack role. The platoon did extremely well and behaved very steadily under heavy mortar fire both during their move from Point 121 to the "Hook" and during the process of clearing the Chinese from "D" Company's trenches. 2/Lt. Gilbert-Smith led the way with much calm, and set a great example throughout.

The Battalion was relieved by the 1st Royal Fusiliers at midday on May 29 and went into a reserve area behind the "Hook" sector. "B" Company actually remained in this area until July 10. During this period platoons took it in turn to carry out eight-hour shifts by day and night on the "Hook" feature helping the 1st Kings, who relieved the 1st Royal Fusiliers on June 9, in re-digging and reorganising the defences. Our efforts were once again directed by Capt. Tom Watling, Royal Engineers, who did us so well as our Sapper adviser when we were holding the "Hook." This was not a very healthy occupation in more ways than one and platoons were not sorry when we were relieved of this commitment. Everyone had seen quite enough of the hill called "Hook," having been intimately associated with it for two months.

It was during June that we welcomed 2/Lt. David Camidge to the Company, who took over No. 5 Platoon from 2/Lt. Rothery, prior to the



1. The top of "The Hook." 2. "Hook" Bn C.P. area. 3. C.O.'s Conference after "The Hook" battle (left to right) Lt.-Col. Bunbury, Majors Moran, Kavanagh, Milligan, Le Messurier and Firth. (Majors Austin and Emmett still up on "The Hook.") 4. Some of the K.S.C. porters.

latter's departure for the United Kingdom. We also said goodbye to Sgt. Milton, who unfortunately was chosen to go to the battle school in Japan.

On July 10 the Battalion took over from the 3rd Battalion the Royal Twenty-Second Regiment ("The Vandooze") in the Naeochon area, where we had been the previous December and January. Here "B" Company held the left forward position for the last three weeks before the truce.

This period was uneventful. There was, however, a certain amount of harassing by enemy mortars, particularly on No. 6 Platoon, who were the right forward platoon, and on standing patrols at night.

Small parties of the enemy probed our positions during the first week, but on finding our standing patrols alert and unpredictable they gave us no more trouble.

In No. 6 Platoon the old patrol experts were busy again finding two standing patrols a night. Among others there were Cpls. Clark, Archer and Enright and Ptes. McCracken, Chippendale and Armstrong.

No. 4 Platoon (2/Lt. Miller), on the left, had some excitement in dealing with a feature called (curiously enough considering the platoon commander!) "Gertie," which was occupied by neither side but patrolled by both. Cpl. Bell seemed to spend all his time there after dark.

A successful recon. patrol in the valley between "Gertie" and the Chinese positions was carried out by 2/Lt. Miller and Pte. Wood and, later on, 2/Lts. Gilbert Smith and Camidge, Cpl. Pratt and L/Cpl. Silcock carried out a recon. for an ambush there. The truce, in fact, robbed them of the chance to put this ambush into effect. Then there were the "Blackpool illuminations" on the left flank which startled the Company early one morning, but it was only the O.C. of No. 4 Platoon carrying out a "sweep patrol" on "Gertie" and having very little luck in avoiding trip flares. They call him "Trippy" now!

The weather was very unpleasant during this time. It was a choice between hot and sticky and torrential rain which flooded the trenches and so undermined the bunkers that many collapsed.

Some very odd forms of dress made their appearance as a result, the most popular "all-weather rig" being Canadian-type peaked caps, P.T. shorts and boots only. This was, needless to say, only permitted while actually in the trenches.

At nights the mosquitoes cheived the standing patrols unmercifully. The armoured vest is definitely proof against mosquito bites and proved most valuable in that respect! Shirts and trousers offered no protection at all.

When lying up in the valley, 2/Lt. Miller selected a water-filled shell-hole and lay practically submerged to escape being bitten. He felt real ignominy, however, when one of the million frogs that infest the valley came out and sat on his protruding posterior, croaking loudly.

It was a great moment when the hour of 10 p.m. approached on the night of July 28. Standing patrols were called in by 2145 hours, and then followed a ten minutes' pyrotechnic display with

every type of flare available. Russell Spurr and Steve Barber from the *Daily Express* and the *News Chronicle* were present to see what took place.

Early the next day everyone was up on the top of the position walking about and waving at the Chinese, who put out flags and banners and broadcast music and propaganda. In brilliant sunshine, with binoculars and telescopes flashing, it was rather like Whit Sunday at some minor race meeting.

We are now back behind the Imjin River in an excellent camp site which we have managed to improve out of all recognition.

Our time is spent, pleasantly enough, in training, digging new positions and playing soccer and soft ball in the evenings.

Since May we have had to say goodbye and good luck to Cpl. Archer, L/Cpl. Curtis and Ptes. Abbot, Conning, Coultas, Crowther, Carden, Davidson, Dodds, Hawthorn, Hinchliffe, Imlah, Kegney, Kirk, Murphy, McManus, Milligan, McDonald, March, Morrison, Norris, Peterson, Peebles, Piller and Will, who have returned to England.

We have welcomed in their place L/Cpls. Johnson, Roberts, Silcock and Wood and Ptes. Beanland, Foster, Gibson, Garside, Gledhill, Harrison, Harley, Hardy, Holdroyd, Harris, Hayes, Hall, Johnson, McGee, Neill, Rowett, Simmonite, Vardy, Woodhead and Watson.

"C" COMPANY

After a fairly pleasant month as "Victor Company The Black Dukes" on Point 146, the Company was relieved by "A" Company. A quiet ten days in reserve was mostly spent in swimming and cleaning up ourselves and our impediments. Having been forward company longer than any of the others, "C" Company was given the option of Point 121 or the "Sausage" Company positions, both of which flanked the "Hook" Company. We chose the "Sausage" Company for its apparent lack of shells. Here we settled down to some very hard digging. All started quietly and No. 7 Platoon (2/Lts. Saunders and Mitchell) out-dug the Sappers by accidentally piercing a carefully dug tunnel—the hole thus made was greatly improved by a Chinese shell. The Chinese grew very active and we were warned of a possible attack—every day steady shellfire was kept up on the Company area, with its inevitable drain of casualties. The wounded during this very unpleasant time included Cpl. Linfoot, L/Cpls. Bailey, M.M., and Llewellyn, Ptes. Gibben, Venning, Tucker, Noble, Metcalfe, Robertson (who we deeply regret died later of his wounds), Hewson, Harker, Weston, Hannant, Owston, L/Cpls. Evans and Burke, Ptes. Snowden, Burgin, Davison, Wait, Ferguson, Hutchinson and Boot, Sgt. Dickie, L/Cpl. Montague and Cpl. Lewis, R.A.M.C.

The patrols were numerous and we supplied both the "Warsaw" (for part of the time) and "Long Finger" standing patrol (for all the time). Many times these patrols were mortared and attempts were made by Chinese to remove them. One such patrol led by L/Cpl. Bailey, M.M., with Ptes. Dodds (90r) and Miller (89r) and two Katcom, were attacked and forced to withdraw. As can be seen by this

gallant N.C.O.'s citation, he covered its withdrawal despite the fact that he was wounded. Later 2/Lt. Campbell-Lamerton, accompanied by Cpl. McKenzie, visited this end of "Long Finger" to report on enemy movement. This they did and McKenzie had to be restrained from fighting the Chinese who were all round them several times. The patrol did excellent work and valuable information was obtained. The next patrol, led by 2/Lt. Mitchell, accompanied by Cpl. Sergeant, again visited "Long Finger." This time they were surrounded and had to leave in an undignified manner. Finally, 2/Lt. Saunders was on his way out when one of our own standing patrols "objected" and gave him a burst of sten all to himself—luckily he was not hurt.

Tension now increased and for successive nights the warning "Tonight is the night" was passed. It was with relief that the opening enemy barrage fell, with enormous ferocity, at 1953 hours on May 28. The Company was preparing to stand to at the time and it was with great difficulty that everyone crawled to their posts to start firing. Peter Guthrie was killed gallantly getting his platoon to their posts—his encouraging words were an inspiration to his platoon. Peter Mitchell quickly took over the platoon. All along the Company front we had O.P.s with telephones and wireless sets. In the first few minutes all lines went and soon reports were coming over the air. It is chiefly due to those excellent Signallers, L/Cpls. Simpson, Holtby, McGregor and Scruton, that communications were always of the highest level. Reports came from Sgt. McFarlane (I.R.T.R.), on our left, to C.S.M. Randall on "McKenzie's Nose," on our right. All this time all 18 bren and three Brownings kept up a steady fire down the possible enemy approach. Gun and mortar fire of our own came down with an ever increasing crescendo and permanent light fired by the Americans lit the smoke-filled valley. Rarely has been seen such a weight of fire coming down. Chinese shells continued to crash in and the Company C.P. was hit time and time again. Inside were assembled nine of us including Major John Milligan of "H.Q." Company, Lt. Hardy and Cpl. FitzHenry of No. 3 Mortar Platoon. At no time did the Chinese get near the Company position. It was later learnt that our shelling broke up an attack on us before it really got started. We were, I suppose, lucky as our casualties were small. For that mercy we are indeed thankful. At this time some parts of Nos. 9 and 7 Platoons were "resting" in reserve, they were quickly sent for by the Battalion and under 2/Lt. Campbell-Lamerton went to assist "D" Company on the "Hook." After a perilous drive in carriers and a wild dash across shell splattered roads this force reached "D" Company C.P. and was immediately despatched to help clear the trenches—a job they did extremely well. As dawn approached one could gradually see the battle dying down and receding in the distance beyond the Turks on our left. When we examined our positions we found much damage—trenches fallen in, great holes torn in the ground, the jeephead a shambles of wrecked vehicles and destroyed "hoochis." Soon we started to clear up

this mess and prepare for a possible further attack, but happily we were relieved by the I.R.F. on May 29 and we withdrew into reserve. Here we cleaned up, bathed and generally got ready to go back into the line. After 14 days we went back to our old area, Point 146. We began to dig furiously (Cpl. McKenzie's section dug their own special tunnel), our efforts being considerably hampered by rain. David Cowell relieved Derek Wood as 2 IC. Derek and Pte. Burke returned to "A" Echelon. This was happily a quiet area, slightly marred by a little shelling. After five weeks in this area we were relieved by the Australians and for the first time in eight and a half months this Company went to a reserve area at Naeochon. No. 7 Platoon went up the line to assist "D" Company while Nos. 8 and 9 Platoons did road control and helped other companies with working parties. After a few quiet weeks, although we had our quota of credited shells, came the truce and a quick move out to our present area. No. 9 Platoon stayed behind to help salvage timber. No. 7 Platoon went up one day to help them and most of them suffered acute pain with food poisoning, however they soon recovered.

In our peace (?) area hard work started at once. Hollis and Phillips soon had a cookhouse and canteen up and blue and white paint and shining brass abound. C.S.M. Randall trained guards and Major Kavanagh left us to become Training Officer. We wish him the best of luck and welcome as his successor Capt. Kilner. Now Gib. is on the horizon, may we reach it soon.

Finally, we wish a quick recovery to our many wounded. Some, happily, are back with us again, others are safely in the U.K. To those who have served the Company so well and are now civilians again we send our thanks. The spirit, hard work and courage of all has been of the highest standard—to make "C" Company second to none.

"D" COMPANY

On May 10 we moved back into the line again after a pleasant period in Brigade reserve for what was to be in fact our "finest hour."

The Battalion took over the "Hook" position from the 1st Battalion The Black Watch and our task was to hold Hill 121 protecting the left flank of the "Hook" Company position.

Hill 121 was an interesting hill to hold for two reasons. Firstly it was the left Company position on the Divisional front, which required a close liaison with a Turkish Company on our left. Secondly we were in such a position as to be able to cover one of the main approaches on to the "Hook" known as "Ronson."

A very friendly liaison was established with the Turks, whose C.C. spoke quite good English and became very pro-"Duke."

Each of our hills was able to support the other in the event of attack and the Turks turned a very fair proportion of their automatic weapons to fire across our front.

We established a contact bunker between us manned mutually by Turks and "Dukes" with telephone communication to both Company H.Q.s. The contact bunker personnel—supplied by No. 11

Platoon—lived in the Turkish Company locality and enjoyed the change of diet if not the *yagouti*.

It was about this time that it was appreciated that an attack was imminent against the Battalion position with the aim of capturing the vital "Hook" Company locality.

We worked with renewed zeal to improve our defences, with special reference to our new tie-up with the Turks and the tightening of the Company perimeter.

This reorganisation of our defences introduced a new technique in the use of the 2-in. mortar. We were given an additional three by "A" Company who were in reserve. This gave us a total of six which we established in two batteries to cover the Company front. In addition we were the proud possessors of two 60-mm. mortars. Our Company 2IC, Capt. Tony Sherratt, became the Company Mortar Officer and a great exponent in the art. The slightest movement to our front produced a most devastating reply.

The enemy hill immediately to our front was known as "Betty Grable." At night our listening posts were continuously reporting activity in the area of the "interesting features," and Capt. Sherratt in his new role took great pleasure in his ability to stop this enemy interference!

Increased enemy mortar and shell fire on the Company confirmed our knowledge that something was due in the near future. During one night we received over 1,000 mixed mortar bombs and shells. We very quickly learned that enemy light signals—two reds from feature "Paris"—meant a *stonk* on Hill 121 in five minutes. Kind of them to warn us!

On May 25 the O.C., Major "Baron" Emmett, was called to Battalion H.Q. by the C.O. and given orders to relieve "B" Company on the "Hook" by 1200 hours the following day.

The relief went well and was completed on time, regardless of what appeared (anyway to the new arrivals) to be an increase in the enemy rate of shelling.

We all realised that we were probably going to be very much in the "public eye" in the near future, and we did all that was humanly possible during the next two nights and days to ensure we were best prepared to meet the enemy attack if and when it came.

It is always quite a problem getting to know and understand the technique of a new Company position—each one is different—and we wanted to grasp this one *very* quickly!

We were in high spirits—our stay on Hill 121 had tuned us up to fighting pitch. We were ready!

Then came that fateful May 28. We were heavily shelled and mortared all the day until by late afternoon considerable damage had been done to the trenches, especially in the forward platoon (No. 10) and the right platoon (No. 12) positions, where the trenches had collapsed in several places. Where possible we cleared them in daylight, but naturally the majority of this work had to be done under cover of darkness. Working parties were detailed to do this that night!

At approximately 2000 hours the enemy attacked

the position in strength. His preliminary bombardment was intense, to say the least. Sound-ranging instruments recorded that up to ten thousand (yes! thousands) mixed shells and bombs landed in the Battalion area during the battle.

The detailed story of this now famous saga can be read under a separate heading in this journal. Enough to say here, as on St. Crispin's Day, "We were there!" Yes, and very much so, too!

"Dog" Company showed that their fangs were well sharpened that night.

In relation to the casualties inflicted on the enemy our own were light. The enemy left over 100 dead on the position. This gives a good clue to the total number of casualties he must have suffered when it is realised that he makes every effort to clear the battlefield of his dead and wounded.

It is fitting here to offer the condolences of the surviving officers and men of the Company to the relatives and friends of those who paid the supreme sacrifice and those who are still prisoners of war or missing in action.

The following morning the C.O. came up to the Company position and toured the area with our O.C. The position was unrecognisable and in many places impassable and, although still being mortared and shelled, parties of Sappers and "Dukes," assisted by a smoke screen, were still rescuing the wounded and the dead.

It was about this time that the O.C. felt like a short stimulant, but on going to his "hoochi" found the cupboard bare. The "hocchi" had been used during the battle as a forward casualty aid post—so presumably nothing had been wasted!

We were relieved at approximately 1200 hours by "A" Company I.R.F. and moved back into a reserve area to recuperate and re-equip. Three days was the time allowed. Consequently not much rest was achieved, and everyone looked forward to going back in the line—particularly C.Q.M.S. Alton who had a permanent "headache."

However fate was kind to us and we stayed a little longer, and on June 7, we moved up into the line on the right of the "Hook" Battalion to an area known as "Little Gib" but more commonly called in the Battalion "The Garden of the Sami-chon." It was a really delightful spot with only one platoon forward and the remainder behind cover in tents. We made full use of our good luck and built a basket ball pitch, volley ball pitch, and a 30 yards shooting range—and ran some amusing inter platoon competitions.

Although practically out of sight of the enemy, a great deal of work was done to improve the position. A new defensive system was evolved as a result of lessons learned. Bren gun bunkers manned by the half section were built and sighted to fire at each other. A policy which now seems to be generally accepted.

During our stay here we were visited by our old neighbours the Turks. A shooting match was arranged between the officers, and the Turks introduced a new type of target—the hen egg—much to the consternation of the cooks and the delight of the competitors. It was a very complicated competition and the Turks say they won!

It was about this time we had to say good-bye to our 2I/C. Capt. Tony Sherratt, who returned home, we believe, to marry! Lt. Dennis Shuttleworth from the Depot takes his place.

Our stay in the local "Garden of Eden" was cut short by a regrouping programme on the Divisional front. We were pulled out of the line for 24 hours into a staging area and then back again once more to the "Sharp End" on July 10.

The Naeochon area had changed little from when we left in February except that it was now sticky and hot rather than dry and cold, and we quickly settled down to continue the improvements we had previously planned.

The tempo of work quickened considerably after our first night of Korean rain, when most of our bunkers and trenches were flooded or collapsed. Prefabricated bunkers were hurried to the jeepheads and the laborious work of digging, carrying, and inserting the bunkers went on night and day. L/Cpl. Swallow who was a carpenter in civilian life became i/c works and gave the Company yeoman service with saw and hammer.

Actual operations were confined to listening patrols, three reconnaissance patrols, and vigorous harassing of the enemy with our 60 mm. mortar until this excellent weapon after such long and faithful service had to depart for "R. and R." to workshops—never to return. We received a few returns from the enemy mortars and guns, but strange to tell the most uncomfortable "appeared" to be fired from behind us!

During this period there were many rumours concerning the signing of a truce. The only real sign being the postponement from night to night of a prepared recce patrol to the rear of an enemy feature called "Monty"—to the obvious relief of the persons concerned!

Up to the very last moment before the cease-fire was announced we concentrated upon digging-in "for our own comfort"—and then when the announcement was made officially we had to dig everything out, "for our own comfort" in the reserve area—a state of affairs which was very suitably commented upon at the time in unprintable form by various members of the Company.

At 2200 hours on July 27, the whole of "D" Company assembled on top of the Company position in full view of the enemy, and exactly on the hour two regimental drummers sounded the Regimental and Company calls followed by the "Cease Fire." Red over red over white very lights shot up into the night sky from all platoon positions followed at intervals by lights from other Company and Battalion localities along the front. The red over red over white lights were significant as being the Chinese "Retire" signal during the crucial battle on the "Hook." We were disappointed with the lack of spirit displayed by the enemy that night, but next morning were extremely impressed by their fine display of flags and coloured bunting, and very interested to note the exact positions of the enemy.

In the 72 hours allowed after the "cease fire" we toiled relentlessly to clear our area, and we finally crossed the "No Pass" line with an

enormous amount of company salvage and a very difficult platoon salvage competition still to judge.

Our return to the Battalion area at the head of "Gloucester Valley" was greeted by a torrential downpour. Our Company position had been sited on low ground at the confluence of two large streams, and as we had not been able to dig our "monsoon" trenches we were very soon in trouble. Our Company canteen functioned through the worst, whilst all the tents around were flooded, and one sergeant discovered that even tilley lamps float.

We survived and moved to higher ground the next day where we are still striving to attain the impossible in efficiency and comfort. The salvage competition referred to earlier was proclaimed a draw and everyone agreed that this was a happy solution, when on the official opening of the canteen the whole Company partook of a wonderful meal of chicken, steak, ham, salad, fruit and free beer. Our cooks performed magnificently and deserve our thanks.

As we close we are busy preparing a new defence line in case of further trouble and simultaneously striving to win the inter-Company guard mounting competition and the inter-Company area competition!

During recent weeks we have lost a lot of old comrades in arms on release and as each release group comes along there appears to be too many of the old "D" due home for their return to civilian life again. To them all we give our sincerest wishes for their future and hope that many may find that the best place was where they were!

We welcome to the Company all those who have arrived to take their places and close by giving our present order of batting:

Company Commander: Major E. J. P. Emett, M.C.

2IC: Lt. D. W. Shuttleworth.

C.S.M. J. C. Jobling, M.M. C.Q.M.S. Alton.

No. 10 Platoon: Lt. J. M. Newton and Sgt. Nichols.

No. 11 Platoon: 2/Lt. D. Hind and Sgt. G. Simpson.

No. 12 Platoon: 2/Lt. E. Dasent and Sgt. Fenn.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The main role of "H.Q." Company, based as it has been in "A" Echelon, has been the "logistical support," as our American friends call it, of the Battalion. Now that the war has, at any rate for the time being, ceased to be a "hot" one, the Battalion has concentrated and "H.Q." Company has once again gathered in all its "wandering boys" from the Rifle Companies and the C.P.

We have been fairly active in the sporting line, football, hockey, basket ball and volley ball all being played. Our chief rivals are H.Q. Squadron of 1st Royal Tanks. Honours have been just about even.

We have also had great soccer battles with the Field Ambulance and the "B" Echelons of the 1st King's and 1st Black Watch.

Softball has become a great attraction, but so far we have not dared to play outside the unit; we

did, however, have one great battle with "B" Company.

In the past month we have moved twice; the latter one an all-time record in that we moved "A" Echelon complete in twelve hours. We can hardly believe it ourselves.

We congratulate L/Cpl. Davies and Ptes. Quarmbly and Johnstone on their well-earned Mentions in Despatches, won in the "Hook" battle. We are all proud of them.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the tragic death by drowning of Pte. Hepple, who was a recent arrival in the Company to the reformed Drums Platoon. We extend the deepest sympathy of all ranks to his relatives.

We close with the inevitable list of changes which seem to plague every sub-unit these days. We welcome Major Austin as Company Commander. Major Milligan has taken on the duties of P.R.I. from Major Grieve, to whom we say farewell on his appointment as O.C. Support Company.

Capt. Kilner has also left us and we congratulate him on his appointment as O.C. "C" Company. We also welcome C.S.M. Quest to the Company and congratulate him on his promotion; and finally we bid farewell and good hunting to C.S.M. Turner, who has returned to the U.K. and civilian life.

SUPPORT COMPANY

During our period in the line the Company has been split up into several small armies living by themselves. We have only seen each other at rare intervals whilst in reserve. Indeed the Mortar Platoon had only ten days out of the line during the last four months. The Assault Pioneers came to live at the C.P. for a spell during our second period on "The Hook." But as they left immediately after dinner for the sharp end, returning in the small hours of the morning covered in mud, we saw them but seldom. In the latter stages they practically rebuilt that unattractive and crooked feature, which had become lower by several contour lines during the course of the battle. Their prowess in building was equalled only by the facility with which they staged pup-tent fires, thereby making up losses in kit and attractive stores. The machine gunners for a long time lived in seclusion on their island site in the Samichon valley, during which time they worked like badgers at night.

However, now we are all together again in our "armistice" positions. Pup tents and "hoochis" has just been exchanged for large water-proof tents when we were ordered to move. At the time of writing we are still in the throes of it. Plans for a bigger and better canteen, a larger and brighter cookhouse and a cooler and tidier office are still in the blue print stage. No doubt these things will eventually come to pass. Meanwhile we try to remember how to "present arms" and "guard commander take post" preparatory to our first quarter guard. Unfortunately the end of hostilities has coincided with the end of the NAAFI supply of boot polish. But "you can't have everything," as the mouse said to the Manx cat.

We should like to commiserate with our former

Company Commander, Major Kershaw, on the loss of his leg and congratulate him heartily on his D.S.O. We also congratulate C/Sgt. Norman on his promotion to that rank and hope he may stay long with us. He and his team did very creditably in an American rifle meeting with unfamiliar American weapons.

And now, heigh-ho for Gibraltar!

M.M.G. PLATOON

After our sojourn in reserve we were all glad to see the advance party moving off on May 10 to "The Hook" area, for life was getting very tedious. Three months in reserve we decided was two months too long. As the Black Watch had only two sections, we had already started on digging a third position and "hoochi" accommodation. This was just finished in time, when the main body moved up on May 13. Curiously enough, the third section position was occupied by No. 3 Section, under Sgt. Spring. This Section was with our reserve Company, and had quite a good shoot from a respectable range on to "The Hook" platoon wire and the famous Ronson feature. The other Sections were with the Platoon headquarters on hill 146 to the right of "The Hook" with their main tasks on Warsaw. No. 3 Section was rapidly named the R. & R. Section, but kept their heads up by doing a lot of firing. We soon found that our presence in strength on hill 146 was well known to the Chinese, who were apt to amuse themselves at our expense, especially in the early hours of the morning. The total result was a few sandbags destroyed, but they furnished us with some good tales and a quantity of scrap iron. For the first fortnight we did our normal harassing with an occasional shoot at Chinaman, real and imaginary, until the night of May 28/29, when we fired 80,000 rounds in support of "The Hook" position. By this time, No. 1 Section, under Cpl. Johansson, had moved to our left flank in the Turks' area, and taken up a newly-dug position on hill 111, where the Turkish delight compensated for the shelling.

They were only 500 yards from Betty Grable, and were all keyed up to try Victor McLagan's gun control! During that famous night, Nos. 1 and 2 Sections were plastered pretty liberally with unfriendly shells, but suffered no casualties, and the gun pits remained practically intact. For an imaginative blood-curdling account of the battle as seen from the eyes of a No. 1, we recommend Cpl. Flood's article in the *Wakefield Times*, "It was hell and I was there."

On June 9, after ten days in reserve to reorganise, we moved into the line again on the right of "The Hook" Battalion area. No. 2 Section and Platoon headquarters on a cliff-like island in No Man's Land, named Alcatraz, with Sgt. Spring back on Yong Dong on our right. We spent a month on the island, virtually imprisoned by day, due to a long walk across the valley in full view of Pheasant, which unfortunately did not belong to us. All our time was spent digging trenches, constructing gun pits, fighting the rains and insects and very occasionally the Chinese. Most of our shooting was against enemy patrols for the Black Watch, who

were on our right. Alcatraz was an uncomfortable example of nature gone wild; it had man-eating flies the size of bumble bees, five-foot snakes and fifteen-inch worms, in fact every insect and reptile appeared to be seen through a magnifying glass. Even our American friends would have had a job describing it.

On July 10 we moved back to our old Naechon position with its Vickers Village. The village had suffered a lot of "hoochi" casualties and we were in the middle of a reconstruction programme when the "cease fire" came. Being of a suspicious nature where peace talks are concerned, we worked up to the last moment constructing pits and "hoochies," and spent three days after the 27th frantically pulling them down and backloading everything of value. Nothing very exciting happened during our last stay in the line, in the first two days we had shot in all our D.F.s, using the same ones as before, and then it was merely harassing and the odd "flap" shoot. We did fire quite a few S.O.S. D.F.s for the King's, which were evidently very successful, according to their standing patrols, and we managed to boost our total number of rounds fired in the line to 766,000. After the "cease fire" and our bonfire, came three days of hard work, and looking with amazement at hundreds of Chinese on the opposite hills. Then came another move to our new area by Castle Hill, on the Kansas Line. We have moved again within the camp, but hope this is our last, and that we may soon be comfortably ensconced and organised for the last phase of our stay in Korea.

During the last three months we have lost a lot of the old team and gained many replacements. We had to part with Sgt. Waite to the M.T., but got Sgt. Craven from the Mortars in his place. Ptes. Spurr, Williams, O'Keef and Buckley went to bolster up the Mortars just before "The Hook" battle, Cpl. Johansson replaced Cpl. McDermott at the Battle School in Hara Mura as his time was up, and we have lost L/Cpls. Beech and Myers, and Ptes. Walker, Martin and Wilkinson to the comforts of civilian life.

For a while Capt. Robertson was out of action with the mysterious Songo fever, returning a slightly smaller version of the original, otherwise we have been very lucky, and the health of the Platoon has been as excellent as their gunnery.

MORTAR PLATOON

Early in April the Platoon returned to the line to support the Black Watch. We remained in the line, save for a short break of ten days, till the "cease fire." During the four months we fired 18,142 rounds in support of six other units besides our own Battalion. Initially we occupied one position on "The Hook" front, but later the Platoon was divided into two troops of four mortars each. Sgt. Batty commanded "Six One" and Sgt. Sullivan and Sgt. Craven had the more recently joined mortarmen at "Six Two." O.P. duties were distributed amongst the N.C.O.s. Cpls. Innes, Parker, Fitzhenry, Gilbody and Alexander bore the brunt of the O.P. work. There were, however, brighter moments during this spell. Morning exercises found more novel methods of laying the mortar.

The Platoon Signallers, led by the veteran L/Cpl. Stead and ably supported by Emmett, the jeep driver, were a most effective team. Rundle, the Platoon cook and later Chang provided some exquisite dishes. The daily menu, which was read out at "O" group, rivalled a specimen from the "Cordon Bleu" for laughter and variety. The accent was Yorkshire. Brown, of No. 3, was appointed L/Corporal and soon proved a most efficient man with antirepellants, mosquito, lice or plain DDT. He left the Platoon after returning from hospital. L/Cpl. Eaton was promoted Corporal and, assisted by Smith, performed hazardous tasks of bomb disposal. Sgt. Craven came to us in the line, but has now joined the diminishing ranks of the M.M.G. Platoon. Gradually, the Germany veterans are being demobbed. Grayson, L/Cpl. Stead and Reid left us, hurrying to join the Territorial Army in time for summer camp. As these notes go to press, others of the Platoon are leaving for England. Their replacements will soon enjoy the undeniable pleasure of a "Long Carry," whilst those who journey forth for the boat turn their thoughts to week-end camps with the Army at home.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

Brigade Reserve behind "The Hook" was for us the calm before the storm. We were not hard-worked. We took advantage of the nearness of the Harlequin Bridge bathing area to our lines, and used the Imjin—which was on our doorstep—as a firing range for training a 2-in. mortar team and for zeroing our weapons at long ranges.

The move to "The Hook" Company area was postponed for twenty-four hours by a cloud burst, and was completed partly on foot in ankle-deep mud.

It would take too long to describe fully the fortnight on "The Hook." The concentration of shells on several nights, the harassing by day, the stand-to when grenade pins would be tested for easy pulling. Bayonets, scabbarded, would be fixed to stens and rifles, L.M.G.s would be cocked and fixed limits checked.

The days during which bunkers were built, or rebuilt from the inside, or faulty ones were further propped and given extra spacers. Every night the

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Company area had to be wired with coil and dannert, between the movements of flares being sent up illuminating the whole area. The climax came on the night May 28/29. The Pioneers had helped to prepare; their work was now being tested. They got right in the Platoon's fighting bunkers between "The Hook" and hill 121. The battle surged around us but left us unharmed except for two minor casualties, Turner and Tobias, one of our Katcoms. The following day the Battalion, which had lost no ground, was relieved.

A few days were spent in reserve and we went up to the extreme right of "The Hook" area, where building began again. Over half our effort was diverted to rebuilding "The Hook" alongside the King's Regiment and parties from our own rifle companies. On one night of wiring, when the Chinaman was harassing more earnestly than usual, Howells was hit by shrapnel in the shoulder. Cottrell and the Platoon Commander had previously been hit on night wiring—it is always worth about three weeks in hospital and convalescing.

We have since done a second tour on the Naechon position and since the truce have been helping the Companies with stripping of all fields work in the area, recovering valuable squared timber to build up the Kansas Line—and the odd canteen or mess in our Battalion area. Comfort is at last becoming first priority.

BATTALION COMMAND POST

Our first contribution made much of the fact that we lived on top of a large hill, and at the time we believed that all the command posts in the divisional area were similar. When we moved on to "The Hook" in early May we found that the C.P. there was on the ground floor, sheltering behind a comparatively small hill. It was not a position which endeared itself to us. The bunkers were much less comfortable, and the whole area far dirtier than we had known before. The probability of the place getting shelled prompted us to reinforce the C.P. with a fat girdle of sandbags. The police smartened up the helicopter strip, and constructed an impressive base for the flagstaff. When, within a few days enemy aircraft had strafed a bridge not far from us, we wondered whether the whitewash was wise after all, but we were left alone.

On the evening of the battle, a flock of heavy shells dropping in the paddy fields across the road was the first intimation to those not in the Command Post that something was brewing up. The road into the H.Q. from the rear was in enemy view for some hundreds of yards and his artillery reminded us of the fact constantly. For the first few days in the position we were able to have the cinema up to give open-air shows, but as the weather deteriorated and as people became progressively busier, this was stopped. The Corporals and men had a canteen run by Support Company. The Intelligence office, constructed in a hurry by the outgoing unit, celebrated our arrival by crumbling away at an alarming rate, its total collapse only being averted by some Heath Robinson-type revetment. Indeed we were thankful to hand the

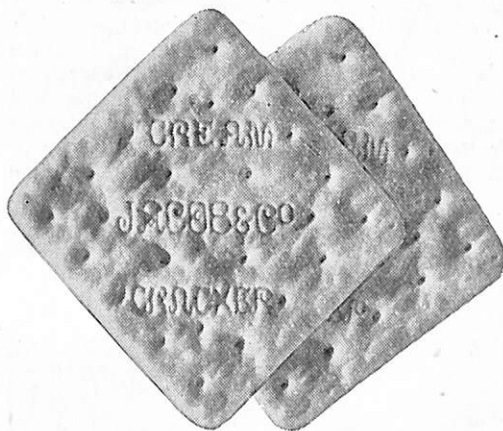
place over to the Royal Fusiliers at the end of May, and to move into reserve for ten days.

Our next spell in the line was in a temporary Battalion H.Q. area where the only bunkers were the Command Post itself and the Forward Control wireless bunker. The rest of us were in tents, and as the weather was very wet, we were thankful for it when we heard how the bunkers occupied by rifle companies were collapsing. Here the area was comparatively secure from enemy artillery, and only one shell landed close enough to be uncomfortable. Here also O.C. "S" Company, Major Jones-Stamp, took over responsibility for our administration in Battalion H.Q. area.

The peace talks at this stage began to look promising, and *The Times* was publishing the Bisley scores, so Sgt. Newell and his snipers started to build a thirty-yard range, on which they had intended to practice for next year. In the event, the cooks and Royal Signal personnel used the range, while the snipers went off to join the Divisional shooting team, who were training for the Corps rifle meeting. We were at a disadvantage in this competition as the weapon used was the Garand rifle. None the less the U.S. Marines, who won the match, shot superbly well, and even armed with our own rifle we would have been hard put to it to equal their score.

Our last tour in the line was spent on the same hill we made so much fuss about at the beginning.

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It was still as high as ever, but many of the old bunkers had fallen in and many new ones constructed, so that nearly everyone lived in a different place. The Commanding Officer was able to get his caravan up the hill as far as the Officers' Mess, where a large standing had been dug out for it. The Command Post itself had been pulled out, and a new and palatial bunker put in, which shamed anything we had seen up to then. The Assistant Adjutant had a very smart bunker office at the foot of the hill, and the Royal Signals occupied the old Sergeants' Mess. To our consternation a "Road liable to shellfire" sign had appeared at the entrance to the area. Fortunately such shells as did land in the area did no harm, though the cooks proudly displayed fragments which fell around their tent. Came the day when we pulled down all the good bunkers, back-loaded the ammunition and moved off to our post-armistice location, where we rejoin our Company and lose our separate identity as a group. We hope we don't have to write any more notes under this heading for THE IRON DUKE—in other words, that the truce works, and that we do not have to start fighting again.

REGIMENTAL H.Q. AND DEPOT

Our last notes were written a few days before the news of the epic defence by the 1st Battalion in the battle of the "Hook" hit the headlines. For a number of days we were inundated with telephone calls from newspapers and other interested persons for more particulars. Some relatives of officers and soldiers, anxious for their safety, rang, and in all cases, with the limited information at our disposal at the time, we were very glad to be able to reassure them. It was a great source of pride to us all at the Depot to learn of the performance of the 1st Battalion in the battle.

Battles that win honour for a Regiment inevitably demand a price, and the Roll of Honour published in the last IRON DUKE bears witness to this fact. Everyone is thankful that the fatal casualties are comparatively low. Our sympathy and condolences have been expressed to all relatives. Sympathy in practical form has also been expressed by the British Community in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. Shortly after the battle a letter was received at the Depot from H.M. Consul General there which is reproduced below and eloquently expresses the sentiments of the people concerned:—

"Sir,

The magnificent stand of your Regiment in Korea must, I fear, have cost heavy casualties.

The community of this area would therefore appreciate a list of next of kin of those who have given their lives for their country wherever these are known to be in need. If you will kindly send us such a list, giving the name, relationship and address in each case, an endeavour will be made—within the limit imposed upon us by funds collected for this purpose—to send to each (according to their preference, which please indicate if possible) one of the following C.A.R.E. packages:—

1. Baby Food.
2. British Food.
3. Linen.
4. Blanket.
5. Knitting Wool.

Yours sincerely,"

We wrote to all the next of kin and obtained their wishes. These have been sent to H.M. Consul General. The offer of these parcels as a token of sympathy from the other side of the world is indeed a kindly gesture that has been much appreciated.

From Korea we have received three drafts of men for release, who after a stay of a few days at Halifax passed out to better (?) things.

Depot news is somewhat lacking for the past three months except for sport, shooting and personalities.

The second round of the Northern Command Cricket Cup was the limit reached by the Depot team this year in spite of some fine bowling by Cpl. Gahan and L/Cpl. Roberts, and batting by 2/Lt. Metcalfe. Numerous friendly games have been played and enjoyed. Here we must congratulate 2/Lt. Metcalfe on playing for Northern Command three times, for selection for an Army Trial, for playing for Yorkshire Colts and the Craven Gentlemen. He is departing on release in a few days time and we wish him success in cricket (and his studies) at Oxford.

The R.S.M. trained the Tug-of-War team to success in the area competition and to the final in the Command competition. For "small" Yorkshiremen this was a good performance.

In the inter depot shooting competitions the 10th, 11th and 12th intakes acquitted themselves well. Placings were 2nd, 1st and 2nd respectively. The 13th intake we feel should establish a record. Their final score was 62 points more than any winning score so far recorded. In addition, the intake produced 8 marksmen, and the rest, with one exception were 1st class shots. We feel this is worthy of record, and Sgt. Burke and his N.C.Os. are to be congratulated on their instruction.

Changes in personnel have been many. Lt. Shuttleworth departed for the 1st Battalion in June and arrived, we understand 16 days before the Armistice! Capt. Dunn assumed the duties of Adjutant for a few minutes and departed on a leave the length of which is likely to last him for the next five years. Lt. Reddington has been doing good work on the staff of the Area H.Q. and we hope his health is improving.

We also extend a welcome to 2/Lt. Pell, just arrived from Sandhurst.

We omitted in our last notes to mention C.S.M. Wilson. We said goodbye to him earlier this year on his return to civilian life, finishing off his 26 years service, as C.S.M. of Training Company. We were sorry to see him go and wish him the best of good fortune. He has settled in Yorkshire and visits the Depot—we are also glad to hear that he has not completely severed his connection with the W.D.

Farewells have also been said to Cpl. Hayne (instructor at the Airborne Forces Depot) Cpls. Lawless, Wheeler, Stirk and Hall to civilian life and Begley to Gibraltar. Sgt. Slattery has gone as Drum Major to the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, and Sgt. Erswell is departing shortly for 1st Battalion The West Yorkshire Regiment in Malaya. Sgt. Galley is now Sgts. Mess Caterer at the School of Infantry, Warminster. To all we

say goodbye and good luck. You have served us well.

C.S.M. Turner, home from the 1st Battalion is now C.S.M. of Training Company, and C/Sgt. O'Shea is taking over from C/Sgt. Preston—as C.Q.M.S. Cpl. Elston has become Provst Corporal and L/Cpl. Wappett one of his merry men—both served in Korea, with the Norfolks and Leicesters respectively. Sgt. Morrow (near the end of his time-and-tether) has been looking after the Sgts.

Mess. We extend a welcome to all, and hope they are happy in their tour of duty here. Congratulations to Sgt. Taylor, Cpl. Gahan, L/Cpls. Johnson, Marshall, Eastwood, Green, Moss, Roberts, Bland and Wood on their promotion.

And that, dear reader, we are afraid is all—as now we approach the winter season and soccer and rugby. Although no established giants of either game are present, who knows what future intakes will bring forward.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the following immediate awards for gallantry in connection with The Battle of The Hook, Korea, May 28 and 29, 1953.

BAR TO DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

Lt.-Col. Francis Ramsay St. Pierre Bunbury

The 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment under the command of Lt.-Col. Bunbury was holding "The Hook" position in the Commonwealth Divisional Sector when the Chinese assaulted the position on the night of May 28, 1953. For nearly two months the Communists had been planning to seize "The Hook" with a specially rehearsed assault.

During the period prior to the attack Lt.-Col. Bunbury did everything in his power to deploy his troops to the best advantage and to strengthen the defences with all possible speed. He was to be seen constantly in the forward trenches, where his coolness under fire and his resolute determination to bring the defences to the highest degree of preparedness were an inspiration to all ranks.

The Battalion withstood over a period of four days an artillery bombardment of mounting ferocity estimated at 20,000 rounds, of which 12,000 rounds fell on the Battalion positions during the final assault. Throughout this ordeal Lt.-Col. Bunbury maintained the morale of his Battalion by his own fine personal example.

On the evening of May 28, when the attack started, Lt.-Col. Bunbury worked to a prepared plan based on an excellent appreciation of the enemy intention. At no time was he outmanoeuvred. He timed his counter attacks with such perfection that the enemy were driven off "The Hook" position. He used his artillery support with devastating effect, cutting to pieces three other converging thrusts which consequently failed to penetrate the main defences.

Both during the enemy's preliminary build up and the battle itself, Lt.-Col. Bunbury's planning, direction and leadership were outstanding.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER Major Lewis Francis Hardern Kershaw

Shortly before the Chinese attack on "The Hook" in May 1953, Major Kershaw was made

responsible for organising the erection of protective wire. It was imperative to lay as much wire as possible in the shortest space of time. The task was extremely hazardous as it entailed working in bright moonlight in close proximity to the enemy who mortared the working parties constantly. Disregarding his own safety, Major Kershaw personally supervised the work night after night, moving amongst the men, encouraging them, and inspiring them to greater efforts. When the enemy attack finally came, it was proved beyond doubt that the main assault was, in fact, held up and finally broken on the wire erected under his guidance.

On the evening of May 28, 1953, the Chinese launched their attack. Major Kershaw was in the forward platoon command post, which received three direct hits from heavy shells. Fearing that the command post might collapse, he immediately ordered the occupants to take shelter in a nearby tunnel. He was the last to enter the tunnel and no sooner had he done so than a party of enemy appeared at the entrance and threw grenades inside. Major Kershaw immediately opened fire with his sten gun, killing a Chinese outright. He was then seriously wounded by a grenade. Undaunted, he continued firing until his magazine was exhausted. Unable to stand, he hurled grenades from the ground, thus preventing the enemy from entering the tunnel. Finding their entrance balked, the Chinese threw in a petrol bomb, setting fire to the tunnel mouth which they subsequently blew in with high explosive. Meanwhile another party of the enemy destroyed the other end of the tunnel, thus trapping the occupants, some ten in number. The fire was soon under control but the tunnel was in pitch darkness and many of those trapped were wounded. Although in severe pain and suffering much loss of blood, Major Kershaw took complete control and only after steadying and instilling confidence into his men did he lose consciousness. It was not until daylight that a rescue party made an entrance into the tunnel. Scarcely conscious, Major Kershaw insisted that the other wounded should be removed before himself. Finally, on arrival at the Regimental Aid

Post, he declined to be evacuated until he had made a full report to his Commanding Officer.

Major Kershaw's conduct was beyond all praise. The part he played in the wiring operations undoubtedly contributed to the successful defence of "The Hook." His bravery in the tunnel saved the lives of many men.

MILITARY CROSS

Capt. Edward Joseph Parr Emmett

Capt. Emmett has commanded a rifle company in action for many months. Under very trying conditions he has kept his company up to a first class standard of fighting efficiency and by his ceaseless interest in the welfare of his men he has ensured that morale has remained high. His duties have placed on him constant strain, involving, as they do, loss of sleep, exposure to danger and never ending vigilance. Capt. Emmett has overcome all difficulties bravely and cheerfully.

His company was very severely tested for many days before and during the Chinese attack on "The Hook" on the night May 28 and 29, 1953. Subjected beforehand to repeated probing attacks accompanied by very heavy shelling and during the final attack to a bombardment of an intensity hitherto unknown in Korea, his company acquitted themselves magnificently. Capt. Emmett's leadership during the battle was superb. After nearly half his company position had been overrun, by his coolness and skilful handling of reinforcements and by his carefully co-ordinated fire plans, he succeeded firstly in sealing off the enemy advance and finally in regaining the ground lost. Much of the credit for the defence of "The Hook" is due to him.

MILITARY MEDAL

4388113 Sgt., Actg. W.O.II (C.S.M.) Joseph Charles Jobling

C.S.M. Jobling is company Sgt.-Major of "D" Company, 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

During the day of May 28, his company area had been very heavily shelled and there had been many casualties. At about 1915 hrs., two seriously wounded men awaited urgent evacuation to the Regimental Aid Post. As both stretcher jeeps had been hit and as no one was readily available to accompany the wounded, C.S.M. Jobling, on his own initiative, took them back himself, through heavy shelling and mortaring, in the company truck.

As he returned, the Chinese attack on "The Hook" had started and the road back was under extremely heavy shelling. His vehicle was hit and knocked into a ditch. C.S.M. Jobling at once set off on foot.

On arrival at his company area he immediately took control of the casualty evacuation and the reception and despatch of reinforcements which were now arriving. Under constant fire he moved around, arranging stretcher parties, loading ambulances and organising the reinforcements. His coolness in the face of danger and his efficiency

prevented confusion and inspired everyone around him with confidence.

Then, again under heavy fire, he personally led the ammunition parties forward to the two platoons still holding out. Subsequently he followed the counter-attack force right forward during the clearing operation, thus ensuring that all the ammunition required would be available.

C.S.M. Jobling throughout the battle displayed courage, determination, and initiative of the highest order. His conduct was an inspiration to all.

22525040 Cpl. George Pickersgill

Cpl. Pickersgill was in command of a section of "D" Company, 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment on the night May 28 and 29, on "The Hook."

He was about to leave his platoon command post when the enemy bombardment started. Cpl. Pickersgill made his way through very heavy shelling and mortaring to his section tunnel with the object of leading his men to their fighting bunkers. On moving towards the tunnel exit he found an enemy party of 4 or 5 men coming towards him firing as they came. Cpl. Pickersgill returned the fire with his sten gun, driving the enemy back. He then threw grenades, forcing them to withdraw to the exit of the tunnel where they were joined by a further party of Chinese. The enemy advanced for a second time, shining torches and throwing percussion grenades. Cpl. Pickersgill continued to engage them with sten gun and grenade. He was then hit by a grenade. Although severely wounded in the chest, face and eyes, he continued to fire his sten gun towards the enemy until they finally withdrew to the exit of the tunnel and blew it up. Cpl. Pickersgill was later found under a wooden bench, where he had apparently crawled after his gallant action. He was given first-aid but made no complaint about his wounds, remaining calmly until relief arrived.

Although severely wounded Cpl. Pickersgill, by his bravery and aggressiveness, undoubtedly saved his section from capture or destruction.

22585248 Pte. (A/Cpl.) John Walker

Cpl. Walker was in command of a section of "D" Company, 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment during the battle on "The Hook" on May 28 and 29, 1953.

Cpl. Walker was visiting his fighting bunkers at "Stand-to" when they came under intense enemy artillery fire. He endeavoured to send a message by wireless from his section command post, but found that the set had received a direct hit and was buried under debris. He returned to his section and found that all his fighting bunkers had received direct hits from the shelling and were untenable. Realising that he was now unable to hold the forward positions, he rallied his section and ordered them to withdraw to a nearby tunnel. Cpl. Walker remained behind to cover their withdrawal. Whilst doing so he saw, through the damaged slit of a fighting bunker, six enemy rushing on to his position. He opened fire with his sten gun, halting their advance.

He then found that a party of three or four Chinese had jumped into the trench behind him and were advancing towards his section in an attempt to cut off their withdrawal. Cpl. Walker threw grenades at them, and climbing out of his bunker covered his section stage by stage back into the tunnel. Once in the tunnel he organised its defence. Cpl. Walker tried to break out at the far end, but was held back by a party of three or four of the enemy who had already entered the tunnel at that end. He personally fought the enemy back with grenades until the roof of the tunnel collapsed, sealing the exit. Cpl. Walker returned to the other end of the tunnel and made another attempt to sally out, but came under heavy machine gun fire from enemy weapons sited in the communication trench. He therefore reorganised his men for the protracted defence of the tunnel, where he held out against repeated enemy attempts to dislodge him until the position was relieved in the morning. On two occasions he was asked by the enemy to lay down his arms and surrender.

Cpl. Walker's leadership and personal courage were an inspiration to his men. There is no doubt that his determination and will to fight maintained the defence of the most important section of the company perimeter and prevented the capture or extermination of the men of his section.

22618200 Pte. Denis Wilfred Husband

Pte. Husband was a member of a Standing Patrol that was practically wiped out by shell fire early on the night of May 28 during the Chinese attack on "The Hook." He and the three remaining men joined another section with which they remained for the rest of the battle.

When the Chinese advanced down the trenches towards him, Pte. Husband, who was in the bunker doorway, threw a grenade which stopped the first group of enemy. A second group of Chinese came down the trench, the leading one shining a torch and calling on the section to surrender. The Bren gunner fired at them but was killed by a grenade. Pte. Husband took over the Bren gun and drove off the second group of enemy. Shortly after this the section bunker was hit and a hole was made in the roof, the explosion stunning most of the occupants. A party of Chinese worked round the trench system and some climbed on to the bunker roof. Pte. Husband entered the bunker and, standing on a bed, lobbed all the grenades he could find out of the hole in the roof at the enemy both on the roof and in the trench. A few minutes later a mortar bomb landed outside the bunker blowing in the doorway and imprisoning all the occupants until morning.

Pte. Husband's coolness and devotion to duty undoubtedly stopped enemy infiltration into his platoon area and his fearlessness acted as a tonic to his comrades in the damaged bunker.

22550987 Pte. (Acting L/Cpl.) Herbert Bailey

On the night of May 17, 1953, L/Cpl. Bailey was in command of a patrol of two British and two

Korean soldiers covering an important spur leading up to the Battalion main position.

Shortly after reaching their destination they were attacked by a force of about 12 Chinese. The patrol opened fire. Three enemy were seen to fall, the remainder taking cover and returning the fire with automatic weapons and grenades. L/Cpl. Bailey was wounded by a bullet in the hand, but continued to fire his Sten gun and to give directions to his patrol. During a lull in the action he noticed that the two Korean soldiers had withdrawn, owing, it was subsequently discovered, to a misunderstanding of orders. Realising that he was heavily outnumbered, L/Cpl. Bailey ordered the other two members of his patrol to return to their own lines whilst he himself remained to cover them. As they withdrew, the enemy attempted to rush forward, but L/Cpl. Bailey, although in great pain and under fire, continued to shoot his Sten gun thereby holding them back. Having exhausted his ammunition, L/Cpl. Bailey then rolled himself down the steep slope of the spur and in so doing lost his Sten gun. After remaining motionless for a short time he heard the enemy patrol moving about and talking above him. Crawling once more to the top of the slope he observed several Chinese engaged in collecting and removing their casualties. Realising that his patrol must have reached safety, L/Cpl. Bailey again attacked the enemy, this time with grenades, and having put them to rout made his way back to his own lines.

Throughout the engagement L/Cpl. Bailey displayed great coolness and bravery. Wounded and single-handed he inflicted many casualties upon the enemy and enabled the men of his patrol to return unscathed.

Her Majesty The Queen, on the occasion of the Coronation, has been graciously pleased to approve the following Award for Distinguished Service in Korea between July 1, 1952, and February 28, 1953:

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE M.B.E.

Major Walter Skelsey (62616)

Major Skelsey as 2IC and Administrative Officer has given invaluable service over a period of many months. He preceded the Battalion to Korea in command of the Advance Party. His tact, organising ability and hard work ensured a smooth and efficient take-over from the outgoing unit. As 2IC he was responsible for administration, an unceasing and complicated task under active service conditions. Subsequently, when superseded by an officer senior to himself, he requested to be posted to command a rifle company in the front line. This was not possible, and he had of necessity to remain in charge of administration.

Due to his efforts, the well-being of officers, non-commissioned officers and men alike have improved steadily. By his frequent visits to the forward companies and by his personal instruction when out

of the line to all subalterns and sergeants, the overall standard of administration has reached a high level.

MENTION IN DESPACHES

4743875 W.O.I (R.S.M.) Robert Pearce

For distinguished service in Korea, July, 1952, to February, 1953.

MENTIONS IN DESPACHES (IMMEDIATE)

**22636205 Pte. Edwin John Davies, 1st D.W.R.
(D.W.R.)**

For outstanding bravery and initiative on the night May 28/29.

He obtained invaluable information enabling "The Hook" Company Commander to plan his counter-attack.

**22596217 Pte. Michael Connor, 1st D.W.R.
(D.W.R.)—Posthumous**

For conspicuous gallantry on the night May 28/29.

Single-handed he prevented his section position from being over-run, killing many Chinese with his L.M.G. and grenades before being killed himself.

**Capt. Philip Sidney Evans (265913), M.C.,
1st D.W.R. (Y.& L.)**

For outstanding gallantry and initiative on the night of May 28/29.

He organised casualty evacuation and counter-attacks under very heavy fire, setting a magnificent example to all.

**22610617 Pte. Lewis Quarumby, 1st D.W.R.
(D.W.R.)**

For prolonged gallantry on the night May 28/29.

A stretcher jeep driver with "The Hook" Company, he made countless journeys to and from the Regimental Aid Post on a road which was continuously under very heavy shell fire.

**22596845 Pte. Gordon Seymour Johnstone,
1st D.W.R. (D.W.R.)**

For prolonged gallantry on the night May 28/29.

A carrier driver, he made four journeys to and from "The Hook" position with reinforcements along a road continuously under heavy shell fire.

Wounded on the second journey, he nevertheless continued with his important task.

**22590589 Pte. (L/Cpl.) Donald Currie Smith,
1st D.W.R. (D.W.R.)**

For gallantry and leadership on the night May 28/29.

As a section commander on "The Hook," after his section had received 50 per cent. casualties, and were temporarily cut off, he rallied the remainder and, personally firing the L.M.G., succeeded in beating off the enemy and eventually in re-establishing his section position.

The following officers, warrant officers and N.C.O.s of the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment were awarded the Coronation Medal of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II:

Lt.-Col. Francis Ramsay St. Pierre Bunbury,
D.S.O.

Major Robert de la Hogue Moran, O.B.E.

Major Charles Frederick Grievé.

Major Anthony Denys Firth, M.B.E.

Capt. Stephen Gerard Dunn.

4743875 W.O.I (R.S.M.) Robert Pearce.

4611264 W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) John Stanley Hall.

15001316 W.O.II (C.S.M.) Geoffrey Corke.

4622099 W.O.II (C.S.M.) Robert Callaby,
M.M.

4613319 Sgt. William Norman.

382 FIELD REGIMENT, R.A. (4 D.W.R.), T.A.

CORONATION

Five other ranks of the Regiment were selected to attend the Coronation of Her Majesty. Sgt. Crowther of "R" Battery took part in the procession from Westminster Abbey and Sgt. Samson, Bdr. Jackson, L/Bdr. Gordon and Gnr. Illingworth joined the R.A. detachment lining the route of the procession in St. James's Street. For all of them it was a momentous and moving experience.

WATERLOO BALL

This was held on the Friday of Coronation Week, and on this occasion by kind permission of Major

Davies, C.O. of the Depot, the ball was held at Wellesley Barracks. The guests were received from 9.30 p.m. by the C.O. Lt.-Col. Crossley and Mrs. Crossley. Among the guests were the Mayors and Mayoresses of Halifax and Brighouse, the Hon. Colonel of the Regiment, Col. R. H. Goldthorpe and Mrs. Goldthorpe, our C.R.A., Brigadier Devereux, and Major and Mrs. Davies.

Dancing commenced at 10 p.m. and continued until 4 a.m., when the guests sat down to breakfast in broad daylight. The ball was without doubt the most successful we have yet had and we look forward to an even bigger and better Waterloo Ball in 1954.

SECOND-IN-COMMAND

Major G. K. Lethbridge, R.A., who became the first Regular officer to hold the position of 2IC in May 1951, was posted away to A.A. Command in July. The Regiment is very much indebted to him for his valuable assistance during the change over from anti-tank to field gunnery and we wish him every success in his new post. We welcome in his place another Regular officer who has joined us from the Middle East, Major P. J. White, R.A. He has attended annual camp with us this year and is already well established with the officers and men of the Regiment.

HONORARY COLONEL

We are delighted to report that our Hon. Colonel, Col. R. H. Goldthorp, has consented to continue in that position for another year. The tremendous and enthusiastic interest which he takes in the Regiment is a source of inspiration to all ranks.

ANNUAL CAMP

Ceremonial and social occasions have not been allowed to interfere with the stern business of training. Last year we functioned as a Regiment with the help of the "Z" Reservists, many of whom were experienced field gunners and specialists. This year we had to stand on our own feet and realised that a lot of hard training was essential if we were to reach the standard required. We set ourselves the target of putting at least two batteries into action capable of manoeuvring and firing as such.

Three highly successful week-end camps were held at Farnley Park, Otley, and a lot of evening training was carried out. On July 19 the Regiment, 22 officers and 285 other ranks, moved by road and rail to Redesdale Practice Camp, Northumberland.

We took over all the S.P. guns and the majority of vehicles required from the camp pool; this arrangement worked well in spite of misgiving, and all the equipment was good.

We started with three days "dry training" to shake down and then progressed through course shooting and battery fire and movement exercises to a Regimental static day and a Regimental night occupation followed by predicted fire at dawn. The last two days were an extension of the avowed object but were justified and resulted in some of our best shooting. We, at any rate, felt that the Regimental concentrations came down as quickly as any from the more experienced regiments in camp with us. The night occupation was most favourably reported on by the C.R.A. and I.G.s.

The G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, Lt.-Gen. G. C. Evans, and the Commander 49th Armoured Division, Maj.-Gen. R. P. Harding, watched the Regiment shooting on several occasions.

Col. Goldthorp, our Hon. Colonel, spent four days with us and we were very pleased to welcome the Mayor of Halifax, Alderman Pickles, and the Mayor of Brighouse, Councillor Turner, during the second week. In the short time at their disposal they carried out a comprehensive tour and saw every aspect of the Regiment's work in camp. We are indebted to them for their enthusiastic support.

The weather was most unkind and hardly a day passed without wind and driving rain. In spite of this the camp was a success and everyone enjoyed themselves. Large parties went to Newcastle and Whitley Bay during the middle week-end and there was a demand for recreational transport every night. The pace of training was hot throughout and it was not possible to hold sports meetings or play games as had been hoped at one time. The best troop was adjudged to be "D" Troop, composed of "R" Battery personnel from Cleckheaton.

578 (5 D.W.R.), H.A.A. REGIMENT, R.A., T.A.

In our last notes we had quite a lot to say for ourselves; in these we have little! Having got our annual camp over so early in the year and so successfully, there followed for most of us a few weeks holiday from military duties.

The Coronation and all its bunting stimulated a continued holiday spirit, which certainly prevailed at all its attendant celebrations—just the weather marred this period of history in the making. The Regiment took part in the Huddersfield Coronation church parade on May 30 and the Mayor of Huddersfield took the salute of the march past after the service. A few were fortunate and actually saw the procession on Coronation day. The Regiment had four representatives who took part in the procession: Bdr. Richards, L/Bdr. Dutton, L/Bdr. A. Robinson and Gnr. Horsfall. These men attended a pre-Coronation course, and were actually away from their homes nearly three weeks, which was

undoubtedly a long time; but every bit worth while; the occasion for them will never be forgotten. We were very disappointed with the small number of representatives we were allowed to send and there is no doubt that the Royal Artillery did not get the same proportion as the Infantry. Our congratulations to Lt.-Col. J. B. Sugden, T.D., R.A. (T.A.), Capt. A. H. Watson, R.A., R.Q.M.S. J. Fitzgibbon and Sgt. D. Taylor, who have been awarded the Coronation Medal.

During the summer months the Regiment has had several days on the open range firing its annual musketry course. There has been some practise, too, with the Sten and Bren. The elements have been most kind to us on these occasions—quite a change from our normal luck!

We record with sincere regret the loss of our Adjutant, Capt. A. H. Watson, R.A., who has been posted back to his old Regiment in Kent. He will

certainly be missed and we wish him well in the future. He was suitably dined out by the officers of the Regiment; it was a very wet night! Although it might not be quite politic to welcome Capt. L. Harris, R.A., as our new Adjutant in the same breath, we nevertheless do, and do so most wholeheartedly, and we hope he will enjoy his term of office with the Regiment.

The following promotions have been announced during the period of these notes, on which we should like to offer our congratulations: Capts. J. Faulkner and S. T. Dibnah on receiving their captaincies;

two Bombardiers, B. R. Smith and J. W. Winsor, on being made up to Sergeant.

An Officers' Course was held at 5 A.A. Group School, Chilwell, on July 3-5, mainly to cover a new procedure in drill that is shortly to be introduced. Most of the officers attended and it was undoubtedly a most successful week-end.

We are now preparing to hold the remainder of the Regimental competitions—the Miniature Range competition later this month and the Annual Musketry Cups will be competed for at Deerhill on September 20.

7th BATTALION, T.A.

SUB-EDITORIAL

The main item of interest for the past three months has been the annual camp, which was held this year, under canvas, at Windmill Hill, Tidworth.

The whole of 50 (N) Division was concentrated for a fortnight's training, and a very strenuous time it proved to be.

The first week was devoted to Battalion and Brigade Training—three Battalion exercises and one two-day Brigade Exercise. These all went off well, and by the end of the week the Battalion had settled down and was functioning well.

The Divisional Exercise took up all the second week and proved a real "killer," and it was a very tired Battalion that arrived back in camp at mid-day on Thursday. However, we had the satisfaction of knowing that we had done all that had been asked of us, and had done it well.

Our Honorary Colonel, Col. Hinchcliffe, came and stayed with us for the middle week-end, and we hope he enjoyed himself as much as we enjoyed having him.

The Officers' cocktail party and lunch took place, as usual, on middle Sunday, and was a great success. Our chef excelled himself over the lunch.

Among other old friends of the Regiment who were present were Brigadier Fraser, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Paton, Col. Cumberledge, Major and Mrs. Hirst, Majors McLaren, Lane and Collins, Mrs. Austin and Mrs. Streatfield. We were very glad

to see them and if, as it is rumoured, our camp next year is to be in Yorkshire, we hope to have the opportunity of entertaining our West Riding friends.

Our Adjutant, Capt. Scott-Evans, is still on the sick list, having had two operations in the last three months. However, he hopes to be back sometime in September.

"B" COMPANY

Once again the focal point in the notes must concern annual camp. I feel, in this respect, that I speak for the whole of the Company when I say that it was a "good" camp. The training proved progressive, and not so strenuous as expected—or rumoured! A great improvement was noted in all ranks by the end of training in the second week.

The sole grouse need not be stressed as it was only too well noted by everyone, but it was noticeable that this particular grouse disappeared when on Compo rations for the Divisional exercise.

I am sure that greater benefit can be derived from camp if we can have a better attendance during the winter training period, so that we can implement the lessons learned at camp, and, once again, show an improvement for next year.

Everyone will be pleased to know that C.S.M. Ratcliffe is now employed as a civilian within the Battalion, and this will mean that we shall see more of him on training nights and be able to make better use of his invaluable experience.

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To those newly promoted for camp thanks are expressed for coming up to expectations. To the older N.C.O.s appreciation is given for maintaining a former standard of efficiency.

Finally, and once again, an appeal is made for good winter training attendances. "B" Company has always been proud of its reputation—let's keep it that way.

"D" COMPANY

Since our last notes we have spent a very pleasant week-end at Farnley Park, where we operated for the first time as a Company. We were able to shake out and get to know each other a little better. Training was at Platoon level, and was the last opportunity before camp, which was to be on a Company basis, and higher, right from the word go. Apart from minor tactics, we were able to practice everyone in the use of the 88 set and found many budding aspirants for the post of B.B.C. announcer—not to mention several Frankie Howersds. Procedure just didn't exist, but everyone handled the sets and lost any shyness they may have had about them previously. Our communication system throughout camp at Salisbury worked most satisfactorily.

A burning hot day (shirt-sleeve order) welcomed us to Salisbury Plain, but that was a final display of what might have been. From then on our tented camp became more and more uncomfortable, slashed by continuous rain and cold winds. For those of experience of T.A. camps and war-time training, Ludgershall will probably stand out in memory as one of the worst.

Fortunately, the weather never interfered with training, and the rain kept away miraculously the whole of the four days of the Divisional exercise during our second week. It rained again as we returned to camp. The Company had plenty of scope during the exercise and held together well with everyone pulling his weight. Once the food started coming through regularly we were all much happier and fed considerably better than in camp. Our final attack with a long advance on tanks was most interesting, even if the final phase on foot over very hilly country was a bit exhausting.

We were very pleased to welcome to our team Lt. McAlister and Lt. Harding and we should like to see them more often. Unfortunately, they both live in the south, in addition to being at University, so this is not possible for the present.

In spite of the rigours of camp, we all returned looking very brown and fit. It is always amazing, however, to have to deal with numerous applications at the beginning of camp from erstwhile drivers who obviously lose sight of the fact that they would derive much more benefit from marching. One gentleman, who shall be nameless, settled down beautifully with a Bren gun in his section, after he had been persuaded that his experience with the "Dodgems" at Blackpool did not qualify him to drive the Adjutant's Land Rover.

SUPPORT COMPANY

Feeling very proud of ourselves after all the Regular Army's praise of the work we have done

with the 50th Division (T.A.), we are still looking forward—films, socials, shooting, etc., are all planned for the autumn.

With our very pleasant firing camp at Fylingdales a success, we were able to go into the schemes at Salisbury Plain with some knowledge of each other, and soon knitted together into the essential teams so necessary in Support Company Platoons. Though the Company Commander, Capt. D. R. Siddall, only appeared for what seemed like, in the words of our Wogga Wogga Music Hall friend, "four minutes" at camp, it is understood he laid an extensive network of electric lines (dis?), organised several convoys, had "A" echelon disturbed from their customary peace into feverish digging, amongst other things. We hope he will come for longer next year. (What are we saying?) C.S.M. Ackroyd sent in several returns, ably assisted by our Company Clerk, L/Cpl. Lodge. "Smack On" thinks, however, that it was rather unfair that he should stop a rocket for not being "on net" when he had not a wireless set!

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

Sgt.-Major Fitton and his men (all five of them) are looking forward to their new "drain-pipes" on wheels—a nice light change from manhandling their present 3-ton guns, which they did admirably all through the schemes. Perhaps, too, the T.A. Association will have their new garages by next camp, to keep the guns shiny.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

A short course helped what was rather a dull camp for the "big bang" boys. Next year we will have to devise something more stimulating.

MORTAR PLATOON

Annual camp this year did not provide us with an opportunity to fire our mortars, but it did give us ample chance to test our tactical handling of them. Training generally was of an arduous nature, but valuable lessons were learned by all ranks and we feel that the camp was worthwhile. Through the medium of these notes, the Platoon Commander wishes to confirm his appreciation of the hard work carried out cheerfully by all ranks of the Platoon.

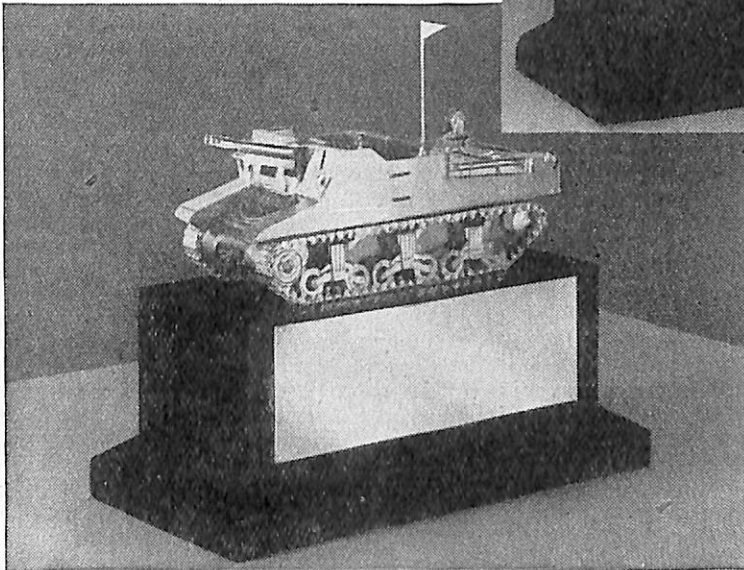
M.M.G. PLATOON

Looking back over the summer months we find that we have covered a considerable amount of ground, used vast quantities of petrol and got through some very valuable training. In June we carried out our annual firing at Fylingdales, this time working by sections and semi-tactically. At one stage of the "war" we nearly wrote off the Company Commander, who somehow wandered into our arc of fire. The Platoon Commander strongly denies that he is looking for promotion!

Annual camp started with a day's hectic maintenance to get on the road, after which we were right amongst it. Considering the bad state of the Pool vehicles, all praise is due to the drivers and fitters who kept up our tradition of "all on the road at the end of the exercise." With regard to the gun

MESS PRESENTATIONS

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numbers, it must be said that throughout all the Battalion, Brigade and Divisional exercises they really pulled together and got down to it—in more ways than one! We believe that Pte. Lord was most hurt because he couldn't take with him his de luxe gun pit at the end of the Divisional exercise.

No. 2 Section (Cpl. Tracey) must be complimented on their vigilance at night, but we perhaps had better not mention "patrols" to "B" Company!

Soon the winter will be upon us and the guns will go into hibernation until next Spring, when we hope for bigger and better shoots.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Firstly, we offer our congratulations to all our friends in the 1st Battalion. Newspaper and first-hand accounts of their deeds and exploits in Korea make us even more proud of our fine Regiment. We hope that when once again they are in the area we shall be able to show them the esteem in which we hold them. Our first-hand information came from C/Sgt. Leach, who was attached to our Mess for the duration of annual camp before commencing his new duties with the Y. and L. He did a fine job as Sergeants' Mess caterer, etc., and we all offer him our best wishes for the future.

As we can only function as a Mess proper during annual camp, owing to the scattered nature of our Companies, it was a pleasure to see all the old faces together again—and the new ones. To all our new members we extend a hearty welcome. First World War, 1939-45 War, Korea medals are seen around the Mess, and the combined opinions should make our warfare simple.

This year's camp, which was a Divisional one, left little time for social events, but impromptu nights proved that the training of Bentley, Ramsden and Whittaker was well organised. A Mess evening was held on the last night of camp, when officers of the Battalion, Brigade and Division were present. The general atmosphere bodes well for the future. Our Honorary Colonel, Col. W. A. Hinchcliffe, T.D., made his usual visit to the Mess during his stay, and members had an opportunity of sharing his hospitality. It is always a pleasure to have Col. Hinchcliffe with us, and his yarns of old 7th times and past members are always enjoyed.

On middle Sunday, a party from the Mess invaded Southsea as, so we hear, did a U.S. Aircraft Carrier. Reports on the expedition vary according to the teller, but it was noted that several of the members returned to the Sailors' H.Q.

During camp we had the honour of being host to the W.O.s and Sergeants of Brigade H.Q. It was noted that the O.R.Q.M.S., who was also acting P.M.C., showed reverence for his "ox-gun" in order to release him early for his out in the blue expedition.

We hear with pleasure that our Adjutant, Capt. Scott-Evans, is recovering from his operations. We send him our best wishes, and hope to see him with us again in the near future.

Lastly, a word of thanks to the Cooks, Mess Staff and Waiters for their efforts in camp.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The annual camp of 1953 is behind us, and we once again look forward to our winter training at Milnsbridge.

Before leaving for Salisbury, we spent a pleasant week-end at Fylingdales in June.

The contingent for the Coronation arrived back at Milnsbridge safe and sound, and everyone really enjoyed the stay in London. The N.S. men who took part were excused annual camp.

We welcome Capt. Burrows, our new Q.M., who has recently relieved Capt. Jackson. Capt. Jackson, an old "Duke," is now with the 1st Battalion in Korea. We wish him lots of luck.

Our M.T. Section received lots of valuable practical training, especially convoy driving in darkness. All things must eventually come to an end and the chaps were pleased to leave camp.

Our Corps of Drums, under the eagle eye of Drum Major Noon, will soon be practising at Slaithwaite T.A.C. This will enable the signallers to move more freely in the Signal Stores.

We offer our congratulations to Sgt. and Mrs. Hill on the birth of a baby.

Regimental Chapel

ALL SAINTS' CHAPEL, YORK MINSTER

Committee:

Brigadier B. W. Webb-Carter, D.S.O., O.B.E.
Major B. V. Thomlinson. Major W. H. C. Cobb.

I give below the yearly financial statement and a list of those who, as in previous years, have so generously subscribed to this fund. During the year there has been nothing worthy of report, but it should not be forgotten that the maintenance of the regimental memorials in the Chapel is our responsibility; these memorials include the altar, two wrought-iron screens, two windows, several chairs, prayer books, and colours; in addition we hope to have the new wrought-iron screen decorated with the 1939-45 Battle Honours. W. H. C. COBB,
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Duncombe Place, York.

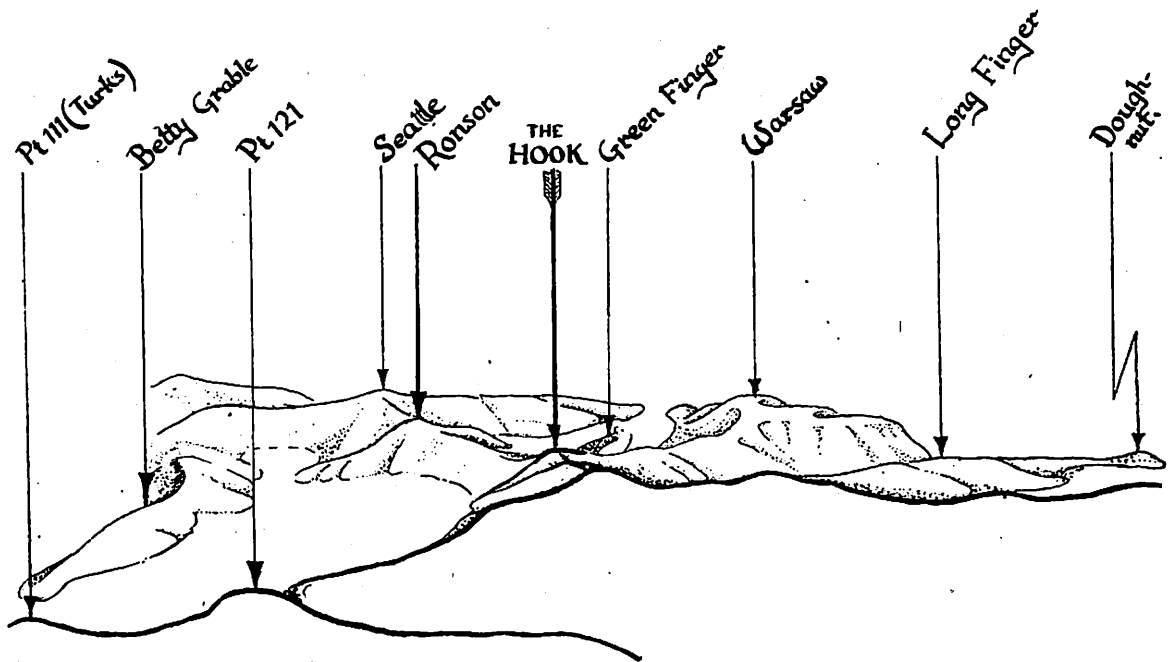
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE, 1952

		Income		£	s.	d.
Brought forward	30	6	10
Subscriptions	9	1	0
				<u>£39 7 10</u>		
		Expenditure		£	s.	d.
Friends of York Minster	1	1	0
"The Iron Duke"	9	0	
Balance in hand	37	17	10
				<u>£39 7 10</u>		

Subscribers.—Capt. A. F. Hemming, Major J. P. Huffam, Lt.-Col. C. W. G. Ince, Lt.-Col. E. M. Liddell, Lt.-Col. W. G. Officer, Maj.-Gen. W. G. Ozanne, Mr. Gilbert Beyfus, Q.C., Brigadier E. W. Rogers, Lt.-Col. R. M. Tidmarsh, Lt.-Col. N. R. Whitaker, Col. E. M. Huntriss, Lt.-Col. M. V. Le P. Trench, Brigadier J. C. Burnett, Lt.-Col. J. B. Sugden.

THE THIRD BATTLE OF "THE HOOK"

By MAJOR R. E. AUSTIN



Panorama of The Hook

The Third Battle of "The Hook" lasted for three weeks, beginning with a strong probe against 1st Battalion The Black Watch, on the night of May 7/8, 1953, and culminating in a three-battalion attack against the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, on the night May 28/29.

The title "The Hook Battalion" has been rather loosely given to the left-hand battalion of the Commonwealth Division since November, 1952. The actual Hook feature is a hill forming a rifle company position in the centre of this left-hand battalion sector. The battalion sector is shaped like a horse-shoe based on four prominent hill features, and this fact necessitated the loan of a rifle company from the reserve battalion in order that the "Hook Battalion" could have its own reserve company sited tactically in depth.

The four hill features comprising the battalion's forward line were: Pt. 121, to the left of which runs the inter-Divisional boundary; "The Hook"; "The Sausage"; and Pt. 146 on which was located the company of the reserve battalion. As can be seen from the sketch map, "The Hook" itself is the hinge at the point where the U.N. line takes a decided south-westerly sweep away from the natural line of the valley.

From "The Hook" southwards the ground runs sharply away to the saddle linking it with Pt. 121. To the north and west the ground runs away less obviously and the spurs or ridges named Ronson, Seattle, Green Finger and Warsaw all converge

on to "The Hook." The first of these was in No Man's Land, and was the location of a battalion standing patrol which clashed almost nightly with the enemy. This Ronson spur gave the enemy their best run-in on to "The Hook" as the difference in height was not great.

Along the western and northern slopes of Green Finger and Warsaw, in dead ground from "The Hook" defences, the Chinese had dug numerous caves to house their assaulting troops, and so steep were these slopes that it was most difficult for our artillery to fire effectively.

It will be seen, therefore, from the brief foregoing description and from a study of the map, that "The Hook" feature was not one from which the enemy could be kept at arm's length. In fact, he was able to infiltrate close to it with little danger, and, furthermore, despite all the efforts of our artillery and supporting weapons, to get close observation for his own artillery and mortars.

When the third battle of "The Hook" began, with a strong Chinese probe on the night of May 7/8, the only "Dukes" involved were "A" Company, acting as "Victor" Company of the 1st Black Watch; but, apart from a certain amount of shelling, nothing of interest was reported. Enemy broadcasts the following night referred to "the patrol action" and "our" defeat last night, and promised something bigger in a few nights' time.

However, from the night of this strong probe until "The Hook" sector was taken over by the

1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, on May 13, enemy shelling and mortaring were remarkably light, and no further enemy probes and patrols were reported.

After taking over "The Hook" sector, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment was disposed as follows:

- "D" Company on Pt. 121.
- "B" Company on "The Hook."
- "C" Company on "Sausage."
- "A" Company into reserve area from Pt. 146, on which feature it was relieved by "C" Company, 1st Black Watch, as "Victor" Company.

The four following days and nights were reasonably quiet, without either undue enemy movement or shelling, and the forward rifle companies were enabled to familiarise themselves thoroughly with their position.

Advantage was taken of the lack of enemy aggressiveness to carry out extensive defence works on "The Hook" company position—bunkers were strengthened, work on the covered trench in the forward platoon was pushed ahead, communication trenches were deepened, and wire was laid forward of weapon pits and down re-entrants and spurs which were possible Chinese runs-in. Most of this work had to be carried out at night.

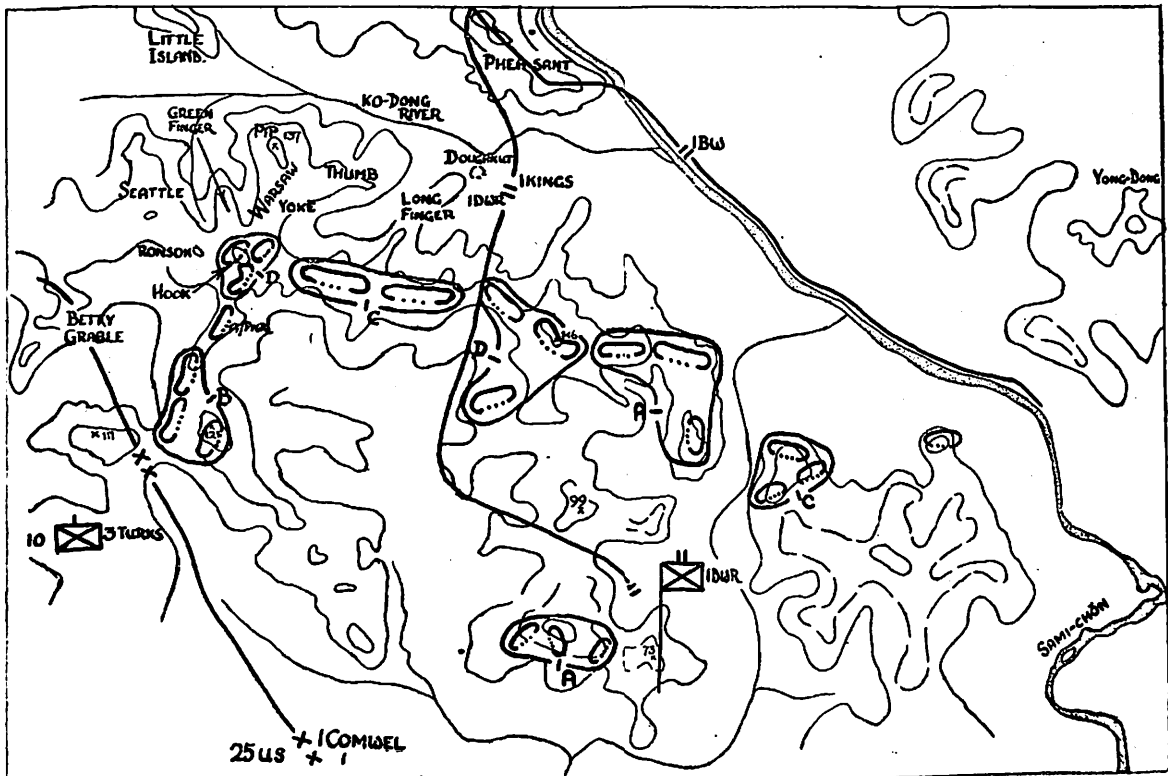
This quiescent state of affairs ceased abruptly on the night of May 17/18, when a considerable amount of enemy movement was seen on the Ronson, Green

Finger, Warsaw and Long Finger features. O.C. "B" Company (Major A. D. Firth, M.B.E) ordered a sweep to be made of the Ronson feature by a strong patrol, which resulted in a clash with the enemy, on which our patrol disengaged and the enemy was driven off by artillery fire.

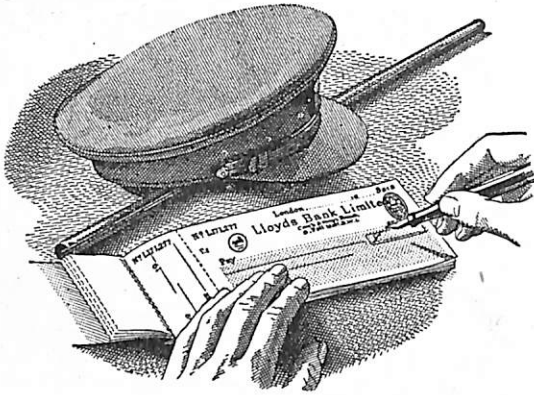
In the early hours of the morning a Chinese deserter surrendered to "C" Company (Major A. B. M. Cavanagh, M.C.) and, on interrogation, stated that the enemy had planned to attack five high features in the battalion sector (two on "The Hook," two on "Sausage" and Pt. 146) with five assaulting companies, with three companies to take over these positions and hold them, after a successful attack. He was unable to give the actual date of the attack. After further interrogation he gave information on Chinese tactics which confirmed the C.O.'s views on the necessity for re-siting our close-in D.F.s, particularly those of the battalion 3-inch mortars.

During the next four days and nights the forward companies were subjected to continuous heavy shelling and mortaring, both day and night, with a heavy drain of casualties.

During the early hours of daylight on May 26, "D" Company (Major E. J. P. Ermett) took over "The Hook" feature from "B" Company, which moved to the 121 feature. On the night of the 26/27th the enemy shelling continued, and a significant fact was, that of the 600 odd shells that landed in the Battalion area, over 200 were 105 and



Layout of Units in The Hook Sector



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122 mm., indicative of the fact that these heavy guns had been dug in and registered.

Enemy shelling and mortaring was fairly constant throughout the period up to May 28. After a five-hour pause between 0500 and 1000 hours on the 28th, enemy shelling and mortaring began again and continued for most of the day. At 1350 hours the right-hand platoon of "The Hook" Company (No. 12—2/Lt. E. Dasent) was subjected to particularly heavy shelling, and the Platoon C.P. received four direct hits and collapsed, the occupants being dug out and rescued later. During the course of the afternoon the enemy proceeded methodically to destroy all this Platoon's strong points and weapon pits with heavy artillery, causing considerable damage to all fighting positions and communicating trenches. Casualties were caused to this Platoon, as a result of which the Company Commander asked for a section of "A" (reserve) Company (Major R. E. Austin) to be sent up as replacements, and these arrived shortly after 1900 hours.

Between 1745 and 1845 hours over 200 mixed shells and mortar bombs landed on "The Hook" Company area, adding to the already considerable damage. At about the latter time the enemy showed greater interest than usual in the U.N. light observation aircraft evening flight, forcing the machines away from their forward areas by heavy A.A. fire.

As a result of information received at 1800 hours the C.O. ordered a complete redistribution of "A" (reserve) Company for the coming night. This had the effect of making the first and second reserve platoons immediately available to "The Hook" Company Commander, so that, at the start of the battle, all three platoons of "A" Company, less one section, were in position on or around "The Hook."

The main Chinese artillery and mortar concentration preceding the battle came down with unexpected suddenness at 1953 hours. It was unprecedented in its weight, and the main effort fell on the forward platoon of "The Hook" Company (No. 10—2/Lt. E. Kirk) with a lesser effort against No. 12 Platoon on the right. At the same time "B" Company on Pt. 121 and "C" Company on "The Sausage" were subjected to severe enemy shelling and mortaring.

Following closely on this initial artillery concentration came the first wave of Chinese infantry, which succeeded in getting into and overrunning the forward platoon, causing considerable damage to weapon pits and defences with satchel charges. At this stage 2/Lt. Kirk was killed in hand-to-hand fighting, and co-ordinated platoon action became impossible. After individual and section fighting had taken place in bunkers and trenches the survivors of this platoon were forced back into shelter tunnels which were defended until the entrances were blown in by the leading waves of the assaulting Chinese.

As this attack started, the divisional artillery fired on pre-planned D.F. tasks, covering all known or suspected enemy approaches to the position. It is beyond doubt that the succeeding waves of enemy in this first attack were severely mauled and suffered heavy casualties. At the same time Corps artillery

fire was directed on to likely enemy forming-up places, and undoubtedly caused heavy casualties.

While this fighting was in progress, three separate waves of the enemy, each of approximately platoon strength, advanced on "The Hook" from the Ronson spur, and were scattered by artillery fire and the L.M.G.s of No. 11 Platoon (2/Lt. G. Ingram) on the left of "The Hook" Company.

At 2030 hours the enemy fire lifted from "The Hook" on to the adjacent companies and the main reinforcement route behind. Shortly afterwards a large number of Chinese were seen on the crest of "The Hook," held up by the wire. Heavy casualties were inflicted by artillery V.T. fire and company L.M.G.s, and no further enemy advance was made. During this phase of the battle it is known that two enemy companies were practically wiped out.

At 2045 hours a second attack was launched by the enemy, this time from the Warsaw spur against the right-hand platoon (No. 12). This attack, although badly mauled, succeeded in penetrating the platoon position. The platoon was reinforced by a section of the reserve Company (No. 3 Platoon—2/Lt. M. P. Casey) and penetration was stopped. An enemy company which was in position to follow up this attack and take over "The Hook" was caught by artillery fire in its forming-up position and ceased to be an effective fighting unit.

At 2200 hours two enemy companies formed up for an attack on "B" Company on Pt. 121. Our artillery caught this force in the forming-up areas, and by 2240 hours the Chinese had received such heavy casualties before they had even crossed their start-line that the attack was called off.

At 2305 hours the enemy shelling increased in severity on Pt. 146, then held by a Company of the 1st Battalion The King's Regiment. In the light of searchlights an unspecified number of enemy were seen to be forming up and were dispersed by artillery fire, in the area of Pheasant. It has since been ascertained that this force, which was of one battalion strength, suffered the most appalling casualties from the Commonwealth Divisional artillery fire and never crossed its start-line.

At 0030 hours the enemy put in his final attack. This was against "The Hook" from the feature known as Betty Grable, south of the Ronson ridge. In the flares and by the light of a tank searchlight this force presented an excellent target for the Assault Pioneer platoon who were manning defences on the spur south of "The Hook," and to the tank on Pt. 121. The enemy force was engaged, and the attack was broken up with the assistance of artillery and mortar support, and on the following morning over thirty bodies were counted on the wire.

While these attacks were taking place, O.C. "D" Company had already initiated his trench clearance plan, and by 2330 hours the trench clearance force, under 2/Lt. D. Gilbert-Smith, was briefed as to what it had to do. With a composite force under his command of "A," "B" and "C" Companies he was to clear right-handed through No. 12 Platoon area towards the forward platoon (No. 10). At the same time No. 11 Platoon was to

clear forward left-handed towards No. 10, the two counter-attack forces to meet in the No. 10 Platoon area. By 0430 hours "The Hook" was reported completely clear of the enemy, and it is of interest to note that shortly before 0600 hours the tanks on the Yongdong feature, on our right flank, saw numbers of the enemy withdrawing across the valley from behind Seattle.

From enemy equipment, weapons, etc., picked up after the battle on "The Hook" feature it is quite obvious that the enemy intended to capture and hold not only "The Hook" but the whole area comprising the 1st Battalion front line. This is borne out by the weight of shells and mortars expended and the number of troops employed, which confirms the deserter's statement about the enemy's intentions.

From intelligence and other sources it would appear that eight Chinese companies from three battalions, specially trained, were involved in the attack, and it is estimated that the total enemy casualties suffered were 250 killed and over 800 wounded, which represents a casualty figure of 65 per cent. of the enemy force involved. Against this total, the British casualties (including supporting arms)—24 killed, 105 wounded and 20 missing, a total of 149 of all categories—appears to be very light in comparison.

This battle brought out most clearly the fact that every arm, each in its own way, plays a most vital part in any defensive battle. Artillery fire, both from divisional and corps artillery, not only smashed up the enemy follow-up to his initial assault, but the other attacks on the battalion front, catching the enemy on his forming-up points or, at latest, on his start line. The enemy was prevented from overrunning "The Hook" hill feature by continuous reinforcement from the rear—every rifle company of the Battalion producing its quota of reinforcements to help hold the position, and at no time was the enemy able to establish himself on the feature in order to hold it against counter-attack.

*THE HISTORY
OF THE DUKE OF
WELLINGTON'S
REGIMENT, 1919-1952*

Produced under the direction of the Regimental Council

*Edited by
BRIGADIER C. N. BARCLAY, C.B.E., D.S.O.
Editor of THE ARMY QUARTERLY*

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*ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
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OBITUARY

Major W. T. McGuire Bate, whose death was announced in the July number of *THE IRON DUKE*, joined the Regiment in 1902 and saw active service in the closing stages of the South African War, earning the King's Medal with four clasps. In 1914 he was serving with the West African Frontier Force when war broke out and he took part in the Cameroons and Nigerian campaigns. In 1916 he was returning to England in the *S.S. Appam* when she was captured by the German raider *Moeuwe*. He and a Merchant Navy officer were retained by the Germans as combatants and remained on board during the rest of her adventurous voyage, during which they were treated with courtesy. But on the return of the *Moeuwe* to Germany they were thrown into prison on a charge of having murdered a German underofficer who had been executed by the British authorities in West Africa for committing atrocities. Neither had been even remotely concerned in this and their arrest was one example among many of the German policy of reprisals. But for many months they stood in the gravest peril. Their eventual release was due largely to the efforts of the Captain of the *Moeuwe*, who gave evidence at their court martial and used all the influence which he, as a national hero, possessed to secure their acquittal. But there is no doubt that the long months of suspense and solitary confinement inflicted a great strain on their health.

After the war Major McGuire Bate was Assistant Superintendent of Physical Training at Aldershot. He retired in 1928 and spent

the rest of his life in Alverstoke. His wife and his daughter, who as an artist contributed many humorous drawings to *THE IRON DUKE*, died before he did, so that he was a lonely man in his latter days. But he had many friends and was always overjoyed to welcome a member of the Regiment.

* * * *

We deeply regret to announce the following deaths.

On July 7, 1953, at his home near Cowbridge, Col. Sir Gerald Bruce, C.M.G., D.S.O., who commanded the 10th Battalion in the latter part of the first World War. He had a most distinguished career both in business and in public service, being Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan and first Chairman of the Wales and Monmouth Industrial Estates, Ltd. His work as Senior Civil Defence Commissioner for Wales in the second World War was outstanding. Those who served under him in the 10th Battalion speak of him with the greatest affection and respect.

* * * *

Miss Hill, the sister of the late Capt. R. M. Hill, died in the County Hospital, York, on August 8, and was buried in Fulford Cemetery. Her brother, a devoted military historian and a valued contributor to *THE IRON DUKE*, left his library of military books and medals to the Regiment. This remarkable collection is now being catalogued at the Depot.

PERSONALIA

Marriage

On May 29, 1953, Major Charles Harold Pickering, eldest son of the late Col. Pickering, C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel of the Regiment, and Mrs. Pickering, to Marjorie, widow of the late Charles Power of the Deanery, Funchal, Madeira.

Mrs. Pickering, in forwarding the above notice, writes that she has just returned from exploring the delights of Madeira with her son.

* * * *

Lt.-Col. E. C. Boutflower, O.B.E., writes to say that he has just moved into a new home, namely Burton House, Bishops Cannings, Devizes, Wiltshire. It stands half a mile off the Beckhampton-Devizes road. Its new owners threaten with the direst penalties any "Dukes" who should pass that way without looking in.

* * * *

Major H. Kelly, V.C., M.C., who won his decorations with the 10th Battalion in the 1914-18 war, has been awarded the Coronation Medal. He

has been poorly for some time and we hope that this new honour will help to restore his health.

* * * *

Mrs. Butterfield writes from Fleet to say that her husband, having finished his Staff College course, has flown out to Accra to become G.II at Gold Coast District H.Q., whither she hopes to go with her two children on September 10. She also writes to say that Mrs. Kavanagh (Junior!) is staying with Major and Mrs. Simonds in Ireland and that Mrs. "Bob" Moran has been given a married quarter in Aldershot until such time as she can join her husband in Gibraltar. She ends by saying that *THE IRON DUKE* should have more of this sort of news. The Editor concurs with her wholeheartedly. This personal column probably interests more readers than anything else, particularly those abroad and out of touch with the Regiment. Let others therefore cast aside their modesty or their indolence and copy Mrs. Butterfield's admirable example.

CORRESPONDENCE

May 19, 1953.

Dear Sir,

At the risk of being called a purist or having coals of fire heaped on my head by older and more knowledgeable members of the Regiment, I venture to submit that our Regimental Badge (I.D. No. 40 page 74 and frontispiece) and also our present cap badge are, in one or two details, inaccurate and therefore I crave your indulgence by permitting me to take up space in your columns.

When I first joined the Regiment I was shown our cap badge and was informed that "when there is an Earl of Mornington we have a little star in the middle of it." I shuddered at this but said nothing. I was shown the badge of the Regiment as published in the I.D. No. 40 and was informed that this was correct in every detail and was regarded as the "sealed pattern" of the Regimental "Crest."

I was particularly glad to read Major Jones-Stamp's letter to you, Sir, published in I.D. No. 79 in January 1951. In his letter he correctly defines "Crest" and "Badge," and also mentions the five pointed star or mullet which is the mark of cadency for a third son.

I would like to take this a stage further. Plain Arthur Wellesley, as a third son, could always bear his father's arms differenced with the mark of cadency applicable—in his case the mullet. When Arthur Wellesley was himself ennobled, he was granted his own coat of arms. As I understand it, instead of choosing new arms, he adopted his family's but, as he was not the head of the family (Wellesley) and being the third son of his father, he had to difference them with the appropriate mark of cadency—again the mullet. This he did and in addition he bore on his own coat, as an honourable addition, an augmentation in the form of the escutcheon of the United Kingdom at the honour point.

And now to return to my submission at the beginning of this letter. When the 33rd was granted the title "The Duke of Wellington" in 1853 the new badge approved for the Regiment was, quite simply, "the crest and motto of the Duke of Wellington." Major Jones-Stamp in his letter quite rightly points this out. In the arms initially granted to the Duke of Wellington the crest bore on it the mullet. But the mullet did not appear on our cap badge then, nor does it appear now.

This, therefore, I submit, is the first inaccuracy.

I admit that at one stage, owing to lack of direct succession in the older branch, the two branches of the family (Wellesley and the Dukes of Wellington) were combined in one person. Which Duke this was I cannot ascertain, probable in the person of either the 2nd or 3rd Duke, but somewhere along the line of succession, the then Duke of Wellington became head of the original branch of the family as well as his own, inherited the Irish titles of Earl of Mornington, Viscount Wellesley, Baron Mornington, and as head of the family

dropped the mark of cadency. The crest of the present Duke is not charged with the mullet.

It may have been that the first Duke himself was the heir to the Irish titles and that on the death of his brother inherited them, became head of the family and dropped the mark of cadency. Philip Guadella and Richard Aldington in their books, however, do not credit him with the Irish titles. On the other hand the Illustrated London News of November 20th 1852, one of a special series issued at his death and funeral, shows his full armorial achievement—without the mullet. This therefore might explain why our cap badge shows no mullet.

But it does not explain why the Regimental Badge (I.D. No. 40) published with the authority of Rouge Dragon *does* bear the mullet in the 33rd part of the badge.

It is my submission that the mullet on the Regimental Badge is correct, and that our cap badge is incorrect because of its omission.

This brings me now to the second inaccuracy. The heraldic description of the crest of the Duke of Wellington includes the following words—"a demi-lion, rampant gules holding a forked pennant of the last flowing to the sinister, one third per pale from the staff argent, charged with a cross of St. George" this means a red demi-lion holding a red forked pennant flowing to the right, and that a third part of the pennant nearest to the staff is silver or white and on the white is a St. George's Cross.

An examination of the badge in I.D. No. 40 shows that the pennant is entirely "argent," or white and charged with a cross of St. George along its entire length. Our cap badge, on the other hand, portrays the pennant as it should be.

Far be it from me to dispute the accuracy and wisdom of so learned an authority as Rouge Dragon, but with respect I submit that the badge in I.D. No. 40 is inaccurate in the way I have described.

It may be argued that these small differences I have pointed out are too "fiddling" and trivial to waste valuable space in your magazine by elaboration. This I admit may well be so, especially in our present day world where we have a host of other and far more important things to concern us.

But from the heraldic point of view, these differences or inaccuracies do exist, and to the student of heraldry, who tries to attain perfection, they are of absorbing interest.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

G. C. Tedd, Capt., D.W.R.

* * * *

Dear Sir,

The "Dukes" Old Comrades were on parade again. This time 130 of us formed part of a great concourse of ex-servicemen gathered together in

Hyde Park, on July 5, to march past Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of her Coronation Review of ex-service men and women.

Our party was drawn from all parts of the country as far apart as Newcastle in the north to Hastings and Rustington in the south. The majority, however, came from the West Riding. This latter party filled three coaches and a seven seater taxi, the coaches picking up at Halifax, Bradford, Leeds, Ossett, Huddersfield, Leicester; we should have picked up at Doncaster but something went wrong and the members were missed. This, however, did not deter them for they came on by rail. The journey down was blessed by fine weather and after stops at Leicester and Dunstable for meals, etc., we arrived in London at 7 p.m. and harboured for the night at the Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, where we were welcomed by a party of the London Branch. Incidentally, more of the London Club came along later on in the evening and we had an impromptu jollification and reunion to mark the occasion. Thus ended the events of Saturday, July 4.

On Sunday the 5th the coaches took us along to Hyde Park in good time for the parade. Here many members living in and around London as well as others from the Home and Southern Counties joined up with us to form the "Dukes" contingent. Our Division was "H" and consisted of O.C.A.s of all the northern group of regiments. I believe, excepting perhaps the Green Howards, we had the most members on parade from any northern

regiment. The move from the assembly area to the parade ground was one of the most extraordinary sights I have ever witnessed. Each division consisted of about 4,000 men and marched past as a single unit. We had a divisional commander but we never found out who it was and we never heard any orders given. The moment before we moved off for the actual march past the scene was one of utter chaos as everybody had broken ranks to cheer Her Majesty as she rode round in her jeep and had then sat or lounged around on the grass. Certainly there was no semblance of an organised body of men. One would have thought it impossible to get any sort of order going for a long time. But suddenly a rustle and a stir in front and lo and behold the Division had fell in by units and in a moment the whole Division was swinging along as though they had been formed up and dressed by the R.S.M. Actually we heard no word of command but the training of two or three decades ago still held good and they were on parade again. Eventually, after a few halts to allow others in front to get into position, our Division began to "come into the straight," the moment we had all waited for, and had come so far to take part in—the march past Her Majesty The Queen. We, the "Dukes," had nearly seven lines of chaps twenty abreast commanded by Col. Armitage. It was a wonderful sight to see so many units on parade representing every unit in the Services with their various banners, etc., flying in the slight breeze. Still more wonderful was the cheering of the crowds and the well remembered tunes from the military bands—it all helped to create the right atmosphere. One could see the backs of the chaps in front straightening as they came near to the Royal dais. We were all very proud indeed to be able to take part in this memorable occasion.

Of course we were the best Old Comrades Association on parade. All our womenfolk said so, the chaps on the left of the line said our line was as stright as a die as we turned our heads and eyes to the right to salute Her Majesty. People watching the parade came along and told us so after the parade; "ex-Dukes" of course. We on parade knew we were the best Regiment marching past, we never doubted it for a moment. You will notice I just said "the best Regiment marching past." I should have said Old Comrades—you will have to forgive me—but I know we all thought we were back in the ranks of the Regiment again whilst we were marching past. Funny how you think because you were once a "Duke" you are always a "Duke."

After the parade we all forgathered at the Royal Hotel again for a last drink or so; handshakes all round and we were off back to our homes. In the coaches heading north were a tired but happy crowd thinking over the day's events and then dozing off to catch up with some sleep, as for many it meant going to work straight from the coach next morning.

One passing thought remained with me. The band playing "Where are the Boys of the Old Brigade?" caused me to look round and mentally note the ages of those on the parade. In our



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Division, and those adjoining, I did not see a man who could have been under 40. Most were in their middle fifties or sixties—a lot even older. I began to wonder "Where are the Boys of the Young Brigade?" Where are the chaps who should take our place in future parades and on Old Comrades' Committees, etc? Where are the chaps who should come into our ranks and help keep alive the wonderful spirit and *esprit de corps* we treasure so much and is so much a part of us? Are the Old Comrades' Associations to wind up in say

another 25 years or so? This is not a lament nor is it intended to be an anti-climax to the events of a very happy day, but it is intended as food for thought for all those who hold Old Comradeship dear. It is a clarion call for all members to appoint themselves recruiters for the Association and get those youngsters just coming out of the forces interested now—bring 'em in, tell them what they are missing by not joining your branch.

Yours faithfully,

SECODE

“LES VOLTIGEURS DE QUEBEC”

Probably no Canadian regiment has been called oftener into Active Service than the Voltigeurs de Quebec. Its campaigns cover nearly nine decades of the nation's history. Two years after it was formed, in 1864 one of the unit's companies was ordered to Windsor and Sandwich and quartered there.

In the following year another company of the Voltigeurs was despatched to the American border during the Trent Affair, a delicate episode in British-American relations prior to the Civil War between the States.

During the Fenian invasion of 1866 the entire 9th Voltigeurs was mobilized and one detachment was sent to Niagara, while the other companies stood to in Quebec on Scott and Lachevrotiere Streets and on Grande Allee. Peace came again in 1868 and 1869 and the Voltigeurs went into training in two different camps, one at pointe a la Raquette at Riviere Ouelle, and the other at Quai Saint-Denis.

In 1870, at the time of the Second Fenian Raid, the unit was fully mobilised once more and stood to in the Jesuit Barracks on the site of the present City Hall.

In 1880, the 9th Battalion of Voltigeurs, which can claim descent from the Canadian Voltigeurs formed as a unit of the Regular Army in 1812, enjoyed the great honour of being reviewed by Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise. This Royal visit was a brilliant episode in an era of peace during which the Regiment trained intensively. Summer camps were held every year at Levis. But though there were no wars in Canada the spirit of adventure surged among the Voltigeurs and two of their men went with the Canadian Voyageurs to the Nile Expedition.

Came the Northwest Rebellion and the Voltigeurs were called out again. One of the first units to respond, the Regiment left Quebec for the west on April 3. It was an impressive embarkation. The Mayor, Sir Francois Langelier, and his City Council bade the regiment Godspeed and the St. Jean Baptiste Society gave it a flag which is stored in the Provincial Museum.

The oldest French language regiment in Canada, Les Voltigeurs de Quebec, has to its credit since

its foundation in 1862 many an outstanding deed, not the least of which was its contribution in men during the last World War to the glorious campaigns of the Royal Vingtdeuxieme Regiment into whose ranks it fed 250 officers and men. The very name of "Voltigeurs" rings with heroism and devotion in Canada's story, since it is forever linked with the famous victory of Chateauguay, won by Charles de Salaberry and his intrepid and cunning "Voltigeurs" against Hampton's invading army from south of the border.

The tradition of the Voltigeurs was revived more than forty years after that great feat of arms when, in 1856, independent rifle companies were formed in Quebec and one of them adopted the glorious name. By 1862 the company had grown so big that it was of battalion strength, and by General Militia Order dated March 7, it was given the name of 9th Battalion, Voltigeurs de Quebec, and became a unit in the Quebec Militia Division. The son of the hero of Chateauguay, Lt.-Col. Charles de Salaberry was appointed its first commanding officer, and he gave the regiment its proud motto: "*Force a Superbe—Mercy a Foible*," which means—"Against the Strong, Force, to the Weak, Mercy."

This motto, which the de Salaberry family gave to the first French-Canadian regiment, goes back to the 16th century when, on the field of battle, one Sieur de Salaberry slew an enemy soldier who was proud of his size and strength, then merely wounded another who cried for grace. This happened at Coutras in Gironde, and King Henry IV of Bourbon, who witnessed the deed, cried out jovially to the victor: "*Force a Superbe—Mercy a Foible*." De Salaberry made the King's words his motto.

Though it was established as a French-speaking unit, the regiment of Voltigeurs included two Scottish companies. The second commanding officer was chosen from among them. That is how Lt.-Col. D. C. Thompson came to succeed Lt.-Col. de Salaberry. In a very few years, the command returned to a French-Canadian officer, Lt.-Col. C. E. Panet, the father of three generals named Panet whose names have added lustre to the history of Canadian arms. From that day until this every

Commanding officer of the unit was a French-Canadian.

The Northwest campaign was a hard one and it called out remarkable endurance and valour in the Voltigeurs. As the Canadian Pacific Railway was not yet completed the trip from Quebec to Winnipeg was arduous. The unit marched for part of the way along north shore of Lake Superior through melting snow and water, and often slept in the open. By the time Winnipeg was reached the ranks of the Voltigeurs had been thinned by cold and exhaustion; two of the men died of exposure and fatigue. Nevertheless the Regiment was in action throughout the campaign, where its discipline and good conduct were noteworthy. On the way back to Quebec, the Voltigeurs were given enthusiastic receptions in Manitoba and Ontario as well as in Quebec.

Once more in 1899 there was a group of Voltigeurs in the Canadian Contingent which went to the South African War and fought throughout the campaign in the Transvaal against the Boers.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, the entire Regiment of Voltigeurs, commanded by Lt.-Col. L. G. Chabot, a veteran of the Northwest Rebellion, was mobilised within 48 hours—a remarkable record. Detachments were sent to Gaspé and to the Island of Anticosti, while the main body remained in Quebec. And as early as September 30, 1914, when the First Canadian Contingent left the Ancient Capital to proceed overseas, there was a large group from the Voltigeurs

in its ranks. Early in November some one-hundred officers and men from this French-Canadian unit went to St. Johns, Quebec, to swell the forces of the 22nd Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force which was then being formed.

More than 500 officers and men of the Voltigeurs served in the Expeditionary Force with a dozen different units, not only in Europe but even in Siberia. They formed a motorcycle section, and furnished men even to the construction and forestry regiments. But it was particularly with the 22nd who owed them some of its greatest heroes, that the Voltigeurs de Quebec fought in 1914-18.

Shortly after the Armistice, in 1920, the 9th Volunteer Rifle Battalion of the Canadian Militia was officially given the name by which tradition had known it for 50 years and became "Voltigeurs de Quebec." The regimental badge the Cross of St. Louis surmounted by the Imperial Crown with Fleurs de Lys in the angles, lost the figure "9" which it had borne in its centre and put up instead, within a ring bearing the name "Voltigeurs de Quebec," the date of 1885 to commemorate the first extensive campaign in which the Regiment had taken part. At the base of the badge is the Voltigeurs motto—"Force a Superbe—Mercy a Foible."

At this same time, under the command of Lt.-Col. Charles-Auguste Chauveau, V.D., K.C., the Regiment was reorganised with a strength of 480 all ranks, including a number of Great War veterans and a group of young Quebecers trained at



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Lauzon Camp and in the Royal School at the Citadel which was run by the Royal 22e Regiment, itself reorganised early in 1920.

During the years between 1920 and 1929 the Voltigeurs de Quebec won laurels on the rifle range and in various Infantry Association competitions.

When the Second World War broke out, detachments of the Voltigeurs were mobilised into the Internal Security Force. They served at Valcartier, at the Quebec Bridge, and as guards for internees.

In 1941 the Unit went active, and went into training as an armoured regiment at Camp Borden. Then it crossed overseas, commanded by Lt.-Col. J. A. G. Roberge for its final phases of training in the United Kingdom. But unfortunately the Voltigeurs were never called into action as a Regiment, but were broken up and dispersed, first into the Royal 22e Regiment during the campaigns in Sicily and Italy, and then into the Regiment de la Chaudiere and other French-speaking units of the Second and Third Divisions on the front in Northwest Europe.

Many Voltigeurs distinguished themselves during the last war, and a great number were killed or wounded in action. In the Royal Vingtdeuxieme Regiment alone, 34 former Voltigeurs served as officers, of whom three were killed in action or died of wounds—Lts. Arthur Ernest Cannon, Lawrence Cannon and Alfred Letarte. A former Voltigeurs officer, Major J. Rene Painchaud, now a Lt.-Col. and attached to the Department of Veterans' Affairs in Ottawa, commanded a company of the Fusiliers Mont-Royal in the Dieppe raid and was captured by the Germans. Lt. J. A. R. Gregoire was killed in the heat of battle at the head of his Platoon in the Regiment de la Chaudiere.

Among his warrant and non-commissioned officers, the Regiment is particularly proud of Regimental Sgt.-Major Irene Roy, who won the Military Medal fighting with the Royal 22e Regiment in Italy. More than 250 officers and men of the Voltigeurs served with the Royal Vingtdeuxieme.

But though they were dispersed during the War, the Voltigeurs got together again immediately after victory in Europe and in the Pacific. In April 1946 its veterans formed the Amicale of the Voltigeurs de Quebec, and the Regiment was reorganised as a motorised infantry unit in the Reserve Army, the only one of its type in Eastern Quebec Area. This reorganisation was carried out by Lt.-Col. Jean Gendron, E.D., son of the unit's twelfth Commanding Officer, with the help of veteran officers and N.C.O.'s. from the campaigns of Sicily, Italy and Northwest Europe.

In the course of its long and rich history, the Regiment of Voltigeurs has taken part in many outstanding displays and ceremonies. Representatives of the Unit attended Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebrations in London. Others were delegates at the Coronations of Edward VII, George V and George VI.

In 1908 the Voltigeurs de Quebec played a role in the Tercentenary Celebrations of Quebec, and

on that occasion they were reviewed by the Prince of Wales, later King George V. Thirty years later the Voltigeurs, with the Royal Rifles of Canada, acted as a guard of Honour during the Royal Visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

There are figures in the regimental history of the Voltigeurs who are of an almost legendary character. Such a man was Lt.-Col. Canon Philippe Casgrain, who managed to combine an impressive military career with a fruitful ministry in the Church. Col. Casgrain was Regimental Adjt. during the Northwest Rebellion in 1885. He was a graduate of the Royal Military College in Kingston, and served also in India with the Royal Engineers. He took part in the Manipur expedition in 1891 and in the south African War, and was Military Attache in Tokyo until he retired from the Army in 1907. Then he turned to the priesthood and was ordained in Rome in 1911. Early in the First Great War he was appointed chaplain of the 22nd Battalion in St. Johns, Quebec, but was soon called to the War Office in London where he served in the Intelligence Section, his knowledge of languages—he spoke 17 of them—was extremely useful.

The Voltigeurs de Quebec produced other great figures, too—such as Col. Charles Eugene Panet, the third Commanding Officer, who became Deputy Minister of Militia, and gave three sons to the Canadian and British Armies as Generals. There were also such men as His Excellency

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Monseigneur Omer Plante, former Auxiliary Bishop of Quebec, who served as a buch private before he became a priest; Sir Pantaleon Pelletier, later Lt.-Governor of the Province, Pamphile Lemay, the noted poet, and many others.

The present Regiment of Quebec Voltigeurs,

whose origins can be traced without a break to the formation of the Canadian Militia under Queen Victoria in 1862, may well be proud of having brought forward into our era, undimmed, the high qualities of courage and of discipline of the valiant defenders of Chateaugay.

R. and R.

BY MAJOR R. E. AUSTIN

The newcomer to a unit in Korea is invariably mystified by hearing those whose knees are browner, or whose combat suits are more stained, chattering about their qualifications for the magic letters that appear at the head of this article. If they are wise and wish to avoid pitying looks, they will not ask what it means, but will wait until the course of conversation makes it clear. Should they be rash enough to ask they will not get the correct answer, but will be told it means "Leave to Tokyo." I am not sure whether anyone knows what the second "R" stands for. The first is for "Rest," the second has been variously interpreted but I think the final choice rests between "Recovery" and "Recuperation."

However, getting down to brass tacks, it actually means in basic English, five days' leave in Tokyo, and one is qualified to go after four months' service in Korea.

As every soldier in the Battalion goes on "R. and R." it may perhaps interest readers to know what is laid on for this important aspect of Army welfare, and having been myself I am partially qualified to describe the broader aspects.

"R. and R." goes on continuously, each unit being allotted so many vacancies. As far as this Battalion is concerned vacancies are sub-allotted by the Adjt. to Companies which keep leave rosters to ensure that every man goes in his fair turn.

The first thing the average man hears about it is that his name appears in Details allotting him a

vacancy. If he does not wish to take it (lack of money, etc.) then he merely says so and someone else—there is no lack of takers—goes in his place. One can always tell a man who is going on "R. and R." because from the day he is warned for it he becomes like a schoolboy when term time is ending, walking round with his head in the air and with one thought only in his mind, "Goodbye Korea for five days."

After a feverish last 48 hours in the Battalion—drawing out his credits, medical examinations, checking up on vaccinations, etc.—the great day dawns and the happy warrior clammers into a three-tonner which takes him down to the F.M.A. Transit Camp at Seoul, where he will spend the night.

Early the next morning he repairs to the airfield at Seoul to catch the leave plane to Tokyo. Owing to circumstances beyond anyone's control (so it is averred) this emplaning usually takes place late in the afternoon and one can only presume that the unconscionable and hellish delay on the airfield is deliberately designed to make everyone so browned-off with Korea that the following five days in Japan will, whatever happens, appear to be an efficiently run heaven ("Q." (Mov.) please note!);

The aircraft that transport leave parties to Japan are U.S. Air Force Globemasters—monster machines almost three times the size of a double-decker London trolley bus and of equivalent capacity. In the aircraft in which I travelled there were 115 "Dukes" and a number of personnel of other units to bring the aircraft up to a grand total of 140. Had we crashed the C.O. might well have wondered how he was going to replace us in a hurry.

However this incredible machine does actually leave the ground safely despite Newton's Law of Gravity, and some four hours later deposits its passengers at Tokyo Airport, where they are taken in four bus loads out to Ebisu where the Commonwealth Division Leave Camp is situated some 15 miles from the capital city.

Leave Camp is an unfortunate name, savouring as it does of barracks and discipline, because this is as far as practicable, non-existent. The leave party, on arrival, has its Korean winter clothing removed and is issued with battle dress. After that it is left to itself. There are meal times which are running

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and of great breadth of time. Reveille is of no great moment if you wish to sleep: Sleeping-out passes do not exist. You can go as you please, provided you are there on the dot on the evening of the fifth day ready to climb into the buses that take you back to the airport.

Tokyo as a capital city is not particularly impressive, but to the soldier from the bleakness of Korean life the shops, "the tinsel and the gaud" make an impressive change and remind him that there is such a thing as civilization.

At the Leave Camp there is a staff of W.V.S. ladies whose main job is to organise everything they can to make leave pleasant and memorable—sight-seeing tours by coach, advice on shopping and what to see in the entertainment line, even packing up parcels to send home.

Perhaps the most fascinating thing to do, and most "R. and R." people do it, is to visit the Ginza Market. This is an open-air market of stalls in which one can buy almost anything made in Japan from silk embroideries to cameras and field glasses. If you are wise and play your cards properly you will finish your bargaining with a purchase about one-sixth of the stallholder's original demand. Beautifully made mechanical toys cost about 4s., hand-painted pictures on silk about 4s. 6d., and field glasses £3. Quite apart from purchases you will have spent an entertaining morning just by wandering round listening to the importuning of the vendors of goods which you would not even have as a gift.

If your tastes are gastronomic there are plenty of

Japanese and Chinese restaurants with a wealth of indigenous dishes designed to tickle the most epicurean of palates. Should you, however, be a dyed-in-the-wool Britisher who despises all things foreign, you can order and eat a large steak and chips and give thanks to the civilising influence of the United States of America. Food is quite expensive in Tokyo, so you need to be on your guard.

Of night life I am not (as a respectably married man) in a position to comment. Night clubs of a very Oriental hue exist, and exist in numbers, but I always seemed to meet somebody whom I knew on the evening that I planned to go, and as a result remained drinking beer or vodka at Ebisu. However those who went there appear to have enjoyed themselves for a variety of reasons, though complaining the following morning about the price of drinks.

In addition to "R. and R." to Japan there is local Korean "R. and R." to the west coast seaport of Inchon, where the Divisional rest centre is set up. This is sited in a very pleasant seaside camp on a promontory some five miles from Inchon, which is a rather drab dockyard town and Naval base. Here for five days the British soldier can relax, some 20 miles behind the front line, and spend a peaceful five days bathing, reading, visiting the cinema and drinking beer. The only snag, but one which does not worry the forthcoming holidaymaker to any great effect, is the fact that Inchon is between 60 and 70 miles from the Commonwealth Divisional sector and his journey has to be performed in a three-tonner. The dusty roads in Korea make this

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journey somewhat of a nightmare, but the thought of the wide, open sea at the journey's end is a perpetual incentive to those who want a second spell of leave.

The rest centre is composed of hutments and tents, and all purchases can be made at N.A.A.F.I. prices, which are considerably less than those pertaining in the Korean world outside. The British soldier can therefore have an inexpensive five days—his food is free and so is his entertainment, and his only expenses are his beer and the purchase of presents for his loved ones at home from the N.A.A.F.I. gift shop.

There is no doubt that the leave side of Army welfare for British troops in Korea is well organised, and the general consensus of opinion of those of us who have been able to take advantage of it is invariably, "A good time was had by all."

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Officers' Pensions Society

The following note has been received from the Secretary of the Officers' Pensions Society:

The Officers' Pensions Society is an association of retired officers, widows and the relatives of serving and retired officers. It was formed in 1946 with the objects of procuring improvement in retired pay and pensions of officers and their dependants, and promoting the interests of its members.

The Society is the only body comprising officer members of the three Armed Services, whose policy is controlled solely by its members. It is non-party, and the members of its Council are unpaid. Gen. The Lord Jeffreys is its President and it has the active support of many distinguished officers of the three Services.

The recent increases in officers' widows' pensions, which had remained basically unaltered for over 100 years, and the abolition of the widows' means test were achieved by the efforts of the Society, the support of other Service associations and the representations by Members of Parliament.

Officers have now realised the necessity of having an organisation to represent their interests in these matters and the Society's membership of over 6,700 is rapidly increasing.

Full particulars and membership application forms can be obtained from: The General Secretary, Officers' Pensions Society, Ltd., 79 Petty France, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

Important Notice

A reproduction in colours of the well-known Hoppner picture of the first Duke of Wellington in the uniform of the 33rd Regiment of Foot will appear as frontispiece in the new

History of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 1919-52

which is about to be published

Copies of this frontispiece are available for sale at ten shillings each, and may be obtained post free from

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